UKRAINIAN NEWS
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Judge throws out another D & D case

Defence lawyers say government should be called to account

By Kirk Makin
Justice Reporter, The Globe and Mail

A 15-year battle by the federal government to bring alleged Nazi war criminals to justice was dealt a serious blow Dec. 21 as a Federal Court of Canada judge threw out an attempt to denaturalize a man accused of helping execute dozens of Ukrainian civilians.

Judge Marc Noel said that not only did the government lack proof that Johann Dueck was a war criminal, but it also couldn't even show he was a member of a collaborating police force in the Ukrainian town of Selidovka.

Judge Noel said that even had Dueck been a German collaborator when he immigrated to Canada in 1948, immigration officials had no legal authority to screen and exclude collaborators.

Defence lawyers Donald Bayne and Peter Doody said the latter finding seriously endangers any of the dozen remaining denaturalization cases that date back to the same period. The lawyers were also highly critical of the government for subjecting Dueck to years of emotional and financial devastation based on 55-year-old hearsay and flimsy conjecture.

"There was vilification of this man for the past 40 years," Bayne said.

"Then, they stand up at the beginning of the trial and have the nerve to say they have no evidence of war crimes.

"It has broken his family financially, and imagine all the emotional hardship of thinking about being sent back this way to a country you have not seen in many years."

Bayne and Doody said the government should be called to account for a war crimes venture that has resulted in virtually no successful prosecutions or denaturalizations, at the expense of numerous ruined lives.

Several years ago, the federal government fell back on denaturalization proceedings as its central war crimes strategy after several failed attempts to prosecute suspected war criminals in Canada. Two men have been deported, while another two left voluntarily. Another 15 cases are pending.

"If they are running cases that have no war crime component to them as part of ostensible war crimes strategy, Canadians have to ask why are they committing another $46-million to them?" Bayne said in reference to a financial commitment to the war crimes unit last July by the federal government.

In his 150-page judgment, Judge Noel catalogued gaping contradictions in testimony relating to Dueck's supposed appearance, age and activities at the time he was purportedly terrorizing Ukrainian citizens.

Judge Noel said several of the key witnesses had no credibility and appeared to have based their accounts on local gossip.

According to the theory of the war crimes prosecutors, Dueck was a senior officer of the local collaborationist police.

Known as Ivan Ivanovich Dik, they said he helped the German occupying forces round up and execute several dozen civilians and soldiers — including Jews, partisans and Communist functionaries.

Dueck was admitted to Canada in 1948, and became a Canadian citizen in 1957.

The central question in the case was whether he lied about his wartime activities to successfully immigrate. In his own testimony, Dueck said he was a citizen of the USSR, born in a Mennonite community in 1919.

He testified that at the beginning of the war, he was conscripted to serve against the Nazi forces by digging antitank trenches on the front lines.

Dueck said he arrived in Selidovka for the first time in mid-1942. When the German occupying army learned that Dueck spoke German, he said, they forced him to become a translator. He adamantly denied that his duties involved being a police official or being party to any war crimes.

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Українці в Росії протестують виступ Ткаченка

Звернення Організації Українського Національного Руху м. Москви до депутатів державницько–демократичних фракцій Верховної Ради України Копія: Президентові України

Урядові України
Засобам масової інформації

ОУН Руху м. Москви, яка репрезентує значну спільноту українців Московського регіону Російської Федерації, пов'язувала приїзд делегації Верховної Ради України до Москви з надією, що це буде позитивний етап в захисті інтересів нашої етнічної Батьківщини України від політико–економічного тиску з боку Росії і в захисті національно–культурних прав українців в Росії, що повністю ігноруються.

Але виступ Голови Верховної Ради п. Ткаченка на радіо «Маяк» 17 грудня 1998 р. показав, що депутація Верховної Ради готує в Москві можливе приєднання України до Росії. Так п. Ткаченко сказав, що він домовився з спікером Держудми РФ п. Селезньовим підвести баланс семи років міждержавних відносин і робити практичні кроки до об'єднання з Росією: випрацювати єдине законодавство, в січні 1999 р. офіційно ввійти в міжпарламентську асамблею СНД, створити єдиний інформаційний простір, приєднати Українську Православну Церкву Київського Патріархату до Російської Православної Церкви Московського Патріархату, створити єдині з Росією Збройні Сили і єдину Чорноморську Флоту, приєднати економіку України до союзу Росії і Білорусії.

Ми кваліфікуємо це, як антиукраїнські, антидержавні заяви і наміри п. Ткаченка, як державну зраду Голови Верховної Ради.

В зв'язку з цим ми закликаємо депутатів державницько–демократичних фракцій переобрати Голову Верховної Ради з метою повернути політику Верховної Ради в державницьке русло, а якщо проімперська комуно–соціалістична більшість не дасть змоги це зробити – всім державницько–патріотично налаштованим депутатам залишити нинішню Верховну Раду, чим ви заблокуєте її антидержавні дії, які планує п. Ткаченко, і офіційно вимагати від Президента України терміново розпустити нинішню Верховну Раду і призначити дострокові вибори нового складу парламенту України.

Центральний Провід ОУН РУХу м. Москви
Голова Проводу – Віктор Гуменюк,
17 грудня 1998 р.

Рада Європи: що робити з Україною?

Віктор Бикодір

(КБУВ)—Січнева сесія Парляментської Асамблеї Ради Європи має затвердити проєкт резолюції свого Комітету по контролю за виконанням зобов'язань членів цього міжнародного співтовариства. Висновки щодо України вельми невтішні. Якщо до червня наступного року, пропонується в резолюції, зобов'язання України перед Радою Європи не будуть виконані, то повноваження її делегації будуть відмінені, а Комітет Міністрів Ради Європи, можливо, скасує право України на представництво в цьому органі.

В Європі вважають, що в Україні досі не розмежовано компетенції судової, законодавчої та виконавчої влади. Користуючись цим, виконавча влада (найперш, слід гадати, – Президент) вдається до контролю, часом незаконного, «мета якого – збереження політичної влади». Таким чином, перед черговими президентськими виборами в Україні верховенство закону ще не гарантовано.

Рада Європи критично оцінює законодавчі процеси в Україні, що просуваються дуже мляво. Досі не ухвалено нові Карний та Цивільний кодекси, не унормовано місцеве самоврядування відповідно до вимог Європейської хартії. Є суттєві претензії щодо розгляду скарг громадян, позбавлених волі.

Особлива проблема – відміна смертної кари. Парляментська Асамблея РЄ вважає, що Україна цілком знехтувала своїми зобов'язаннями. Адже, за уточненими відомостями, за період з 9 листопада 1995 року по 11 березня 1997 року вона стратила 212 громадян. Парлямент України досі не ратифікував Протокол №6 Європейської конвенції з прав людини щодо заборони смертної кари, хоч обіцяний нею термін вже минув.

Відповідний законопроєкт з цього приводу поширено у Верховній Раді, але ухвалення його – проблематичне. *Громадська думка однозначно* схиляється до застосування жорстких каральних заходів за вчинення особливо тяжких злочинів. До того ж, в ці дні в Житомирі триває гучний судовий процес над «серійним» вбивцем Онопрієнком, на рахунку якого – 52 невинних жертв.

Європейців турбує також стан справ із свободою слова в Україні (суди над газетами, закртиття так званих «опозиційних» видань під виглядом захисту честі та гідности керівників держави).

До здобутків України віднесено виконання деяких міжнародних зобов'язань та ратифікацію низки важливих документів з прав людини, участь у розв'язанні міжнародних проблем, уникнення «у себе вдома» соціяльних потрясінь та громадянської війни, ухвалення Конституції. Цього, на жаль, замало... І винними в цій ситуації, вважає Парляментська Асамблея РЄ, найперш керівництво країною, включно з Верховною Радою.

Заява МЗС України щодо нападів на Ірак

В ніч з 16 на 17 грудня ц.р. збройні сили США та Великої Британії завдали ударів по об'єктах в Іраку. Згідно з заявами керівництва обох країн, це сталося у зв'язку з невиконанням Іраком його зобов'язань у відповідності до резолюцій Ради Безпеки ООН, відмови від співробітництва в повному обсязі з міжнародними експертами.

В Україні, яка послідовно виступає за вирішення будь–яких конфліктних ситуацій мирними політичними засобами, не можуть погодитися з силовими методами вирішення цієї проблеми.

Беручи до уваги мотивацію силових дій як прагнення домогтися повного та неухильного виконання Іраком вимог Ради Безпеки ООН, МЗС України водночас вважає за необхідне нагадати, що лише на Раду Безпеки ООН покладено головну відповідальність за підтримання міжнародного миру та безпеки.

МЗС України закликає до припинення подальших військових акцій в Іраку і вважає, що міжнародне співтовариство, в першу чергу Рада Безпеки ООН, мають зробити все можливе з метою запобігти подальшій ескалації напруженості навколо Іраку, яка може призвести до непередбачуваних наслідків у регіоні та в усьому світі.

В Україні висловлюють жаль з приводу жертв завданих ударів і стурбованість щодо безпеки міжнародних експертів, які продовжують перебувати на території Іраку.

КОРОТКО

Україна уклала дипломатичні стосунки з 151–ою країною

(КБУВ)—Кількість держав, з якими Україна має дипломатичні стосунки, вже перевищила півтори сотні. У Постійному представництві України при ООН підписано відповідний документ з Республікою Маляві (південно–східна Африка).

Слід остерігатися нових аварій

(КБУВ)—За останні 25–30 років кількість екологічно небезпечних явищ техногенного характеру в Україні збільшилася в 3–5 разів, а навантаження на довкілля перевищує максимально допустимі показники в 10–15 разів. Ця статистика оприлюднена Президентом України Л. Кучмою.

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More on Morel

Alleged war criminal served at camp organized by NKVD

By Adam LeBor,
Central Europe Correspondent, The Independent (UK)

An extradition request by Polish authorities for an alleged former commander of a Stalinist-era detention camp now living in Tel Aviv has been rejected by Israel (See also Ukrainian News, Dec. 16-30).

Salomon Morel is wanted by the prosecutor's office in the southern Polish city of Katowice. He is charged with crimes against humanity while he was commander of the Swietochlowice camp where more than 3,000 prisoners, mainly Germans, but also including several citizens of allied and neutral nations, were held during 1945.

A reply sent to the Polish Justice Ministry from Israeli authorities said that Israel would not extradite Morel. Officials said the crimes with which he is charged are not perceived in Israel as genocide, and so are subject to the statute of limitations, the Polish news agency PAP reported.

The demand by Polish authorities for Morel's extradition is the second attempt this month to bring back former Communist officials. The Polish military prosecutor in Warsaw recently issued an arrest warrant for Helena Brus, formerly Wolinska, now married to an Oxford don.

During the 1950s Wolinska worked as a military prosecutor in Warsaw, issuing arrest warrants. Many of those detained under her orders were later hanged. Both Morel and Brus are Jewish.

Swietochlowice was set up by the Soviet NKVD — forerunner of the KGB — after the Red Army's liberation of southern Poland. The camp was later handed over to the Polish secret service, the notorious UB.

Stalin's policy was to put Jews in charge of camps. Their experiences during the Nazi Holocaust would mean that Germans and Poles held there could expect little mercy. More than half of the 3,000 prisoners at Swietochlowice were murdered or died there, according to PAP.

Dorota Boriczek, a camp survivor, remembers Salomon Morel as a barbaric and cruel man who, with his colleagues, was responsible for many killings of inmates. "I knew Morel in the camp. He was a very brutal man. He was young then. He would come in at night. We could hear the cries of the men then. They would beat them and throw the bodies out of the window," Boriczek, now 68 and living in Ludswigberg, Germany, told The Independent.

"I was taken there when I was 14, with my mother. I still don't know why we were there and I still want to know. They told us when we arrived, 'You are here, and you are here to die, although nobody will shoot you, because ammunition is too expensive'."

Conditions in the camp were horrific, said Boriczek, who has begun a legal process in Katowice to try to find out why she was sent to the camp.

"There was nothing to eat, a hunger that you cannot imagine. We were lucky to have a piece of bread once a day, nothing else, and water. Both my mother and I had typhus. We were separated and I didn't know she was alive. I had a high fever and when I opened my eyes, I was sleeping next to a lady from Switzerland. I slept with her under one blanket. I was happy that she was dead, because that meant I could have her blanket."

Morel, born in 1919, lost much of his family in the Holocaust before joining the partisans, in his case a Jewish military unit, according to John Sack, the American author of An Eye for An Eye: The Untold Story of Jewish Revenge Against Germans in 1945.

In 1995, 50 years after her imprisonment at Swietochlowice, Boriczek saw Morel in the Katowice prosecutor's office. She said she felt more pity than hatred.

"I hated him all my life and then when I saw him I saw an old, fat man. I could see he was ill. I would even have given him my hand. I asked him why he did these crimes. He told me I was lying and everybody loved him."

Morel refused to speak to The Independent. A man in Tel Aviv who identified himself as Morel's son said his father did not talk to journalists.

National Day of Famine Remembrance announced in Ukraine

(UCCLA)—The Ukrainian Canadian community has welcomed the Government of Ukraine's recent announcement that, henceforth, every fourth Saturday of November will be set aside for a National Day of Remembrance of Famine Victims.

Between 1932-1933, millions of Ukrainians were starved to death by the Stalinist regime, in what remains one of Europe's least known but greatest acts of genocide. This politically engineered famine, which was denied by Soviet officials at the time and thereafter, took the lives of well over 7 million Ukrainians. Despite the fact that many Western governments knew what was happening in Ukraine they, and supporters of the Soviet regime, deliberately covered up this crime against humanity. To this day, Famine deniers remain active in some circles in North America and western Europe.

At a commemorative event held recently in the Kyiv Philharmonic Hall, Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy SmoliyI, recalled how "Ukrainians abroad consistently ...felt it a matter of honour and national dignity to let the world community know the truth about this unparalleled Stalinist crime. They put together titanic efforts so that all would realize — the Ukrainian Famine of 1933 stands on the level of the Armenian genocide and the Jewish Holocaust."

Commenting, the chairman of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, John B Gregorovich, said: "We welcome the Government of Ukraine's official recognition of this genocide, which was probably the single-greatest crime against humanity perpetrated in 20th century Europe.

"We now call up the Government of Ukraine to do whatever still can be done to bring those responsible for this atrocity to justice. Regrettably, many of those who were Stalin's willing executioners remain unpunished for their crimes, living in Ukraine and abroad.

"The Government of Ukraine should bring those who remain in Ukraine to justice and should apply to various foreign countries for the extradition of all who willingly served Stalin and thus participated in the mass murder of millions of Ukraine's people. Certainly some of these communist war criminals are still alive, hiding in North America, Israel, western Europe and Russia," he said.

Next issue in four weeks

The next issue of Ukrainian News will appear four weeks from now. It will be mailed January 28.

This is in order to give the staff a Winter break.

The Ukrainian News office will be closed from January 4 - January 14.

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WASYL ODYNSKY DEFENCE TRUST FUND

In September 1997 the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration of Canada served Wasyl Odynsky with documents seeking to deport him for allegedly making false representations about his wartime activities in his application for Canadian citizenship.

Wasyl Odynsky has not been charged with war crimes.

Despite the lack of evidence of war criminality against Wasyl Odynsky the government of Canada is continuing with deportation proceedings against him. Mr. Odynskys trial begins in November 1998 and it is estimated that his legal fees will exceed $250,000. Like Ivan Demjanjuk before him, even if Mr. Odynsky is successful, this trial will have cost him his life savings.

The financial strain is more than he and his family can bear and his defense must not falter for lack of funds. Please give generously to the Wasyl Odynsky Defense Trust Fund.

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THE BEST CHRISTMAS WISHES, HAPPINESS AND ALL SUCCESS to members, benefactors, volunteers and all supporters AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

from the Board of Directors and Staff

Різдвяне Послання Постійної Конференції Православних Єпископів поза межами України

Всечесному духовенству, у Христі дияконству, преподобному чернецтву і побожним духовним дітям нашої Церкви, дорученим нашій архипастирській опіці!

Христос народжується – славте. Христос з небес – зустрічайте, Христос на землі – величайтеся: співай Господеві вся земля, і весело заспівайте, люди, Він прославився. (Ірмос)

Дорогі Брати і Сестри!

Якою ж великою радістю зустрічаємо свято Різдва Сина Божого, Ісуса Христа!

Які ж ми радісні та вдячні Богові за всі добродійства, якими Господь нагороджував наших предків і їх наслідників. А вони свою велику віру в Христа–Спаса показали в своїх молитвах і діяннях!

Цю святу віру і любов до Новонародженого Ісуса Христа, ми і ввесь віруючий український народ виявляємо через свої глибокі богослужения й різноманітні церковні та народні обряди й звичаї.

Небо і Земля вітають і прославляють Новонароджене Дитя, Віковічного Бога.

Це чудесне вітання приймають Пречиста Діва Марія – Матір Новонародженого, їх Опікун – Праведний Йосиф.

Святі Ангели співають першу небесну колядку: *«Слава Богові на небі, на землі мир, у людях добра воля!»* (Лк. 2:14)

Цією небесною колядкою святі ангели предсказують про успіхи й життя людей віруючих, людей доброї волі. Звідки мають прийти люди доброї волі? Хто ж виховуватиме цих людей? Відповідь на це питання: – сім'я – дім – родина.

Дорогі брати і сестри! Щоб звернути увагу духовенства й вірних на важливість родини в процесі виховання людей доброї волі, ми, ваші архиєреї, проголошуємо рік 1999–ий – «Роком Української Православної Родини».

Великий учитель і святитель Іван Золотоустий научає, що родина є мала Церква, бо батько і мати і діти виховуються, щоб стати достойними членами Соборної (спільної) Церкви.

Хто ж, як не батьки мусять виконувати Божі накази про виховання своїх дітей в дусі Божому, в рідній українській культурі, в добрій культурі своєї держави, щоб вони виростали моральними і вартісними членами Церкви й суспільства? Дійсно, родина – основна клітинка суспільства.

Основні обов'язки – Сім'ї – Родини – домашньої Церкви виховувати:

1. Сильну віру й надію в Господа й на Його поміч.
2. Любов і довір'я поміж членами родини.
3. Любов до своєї Церкви і української християнської православної культури.

Церковна Громада чи Парафія – це поширена сім'я з Духовним отцем–парохом на чолі. Парафія не сміє перетворюватися в якусь просто «організацію» чи «клюб», а тим більше в якесь «підприємство» чи «бізнес». Парафія – це церковна, євхаристійна родина. Її завдання сприяти духовному життю й моральному вдосконаленню своїх членів, – членів парафіяльної сім'ї. Наші Громади чи Парафії мусять бути осередками плекання традиційних сімейних вартостей. І тут Парох та Управа повинні служити за приклад і зразок для інших.

Парафіяльна родина – це частина Єпархіяльної Родини, яка гуртується довкола свого Єпископа, як Предстоятеля, що діє почерез, наставлених ним, пресвітерів. Єпархія – в свою чергу – є складовою частиною ще ширшої родини, а це Місцевої чи Помісної Церкви. Найширша церковна родина – це Вселенська Церква, що складається з усіх Православних Церков різних держав і народів. Ця родина обіймає ввесь народ Божий – усіх сторін і всіх віків.

Ми, Архиєреї Української Православної Цекрви з нагоди радісного свята Різдва Христового, закликаємо все наше Духовенство якнайбільше дбати про добрий розвиток наших родин, щоб вони високо стояли й належно виховували своїх дітей на добрих віруючих християн і цінних членів нашого народу. Ми закликаємо всі наші інституції організовувати імпрези та відзначення протягом цього року з наміром підтримувати наші родини.

Зустрічаймо радісний Празник Різдва Христового з подякою і проханням, щоб Син Божий завжди був з нами і благословив успіхом усі наші добрі наміри й змагання нашої святої непохитної віри!

Цієї святої віри і любові до Новонародженого Спасителя ми від щирого серця бажаємо всім: Вашим родинам та всім нашим організаціям, що діють на користь нашої Святої Церкви і нашого народу.

З нагоди цього радісного свята ми вітаємо Святішого Вселенського Патріярха Варфоломея І, і всіх українців в Україні й діаспорі та всіх людей доброї волі!

Ми бажаємо всьому українському народові Божого спокою та Божої мудрості, молимося, щоб у 1999–му році всі вітки Української Православної Церкви в Україні об'єдналися в одну Святу Українську Православну Церкву і цим зрадіє ввесь український народ у цілому світі.

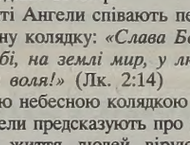
Святкуйте весело і радісно, святкуйте побожно, маючи Новонародженого Дитя–Христа у своєму серці й в центрі Вашої родини!

Небо й земля сьогодні з'єдналися, бо Христос народився. Сьогодні Бог на землю прийшов, а чоловік на небо зійшов. Сьогодні задля спасіння чоловіка став видимий тілом Той, що по природі невидимий є. Через те й ми, прославляючи Його, виголосимо: Слава Богові на небі й на землі спокій, бо все це подало нам пришестя Твоє, Спасе наш, слава Тобі.

Христос Раждається! Славім Його!

† **Василій,** *Митрополит Української Православної Церкви в Канаді,*
† **Константин,** *Митрополит Української Православної Церкви США і Діаспори,*
† **Іван,** *Архиепископ Української Православної Церкви в Канаді,*
† **Антоній,** *Архиепископ Української Православної Церкви США, Правлячий Архиепископ Австралії й Новозеландії,*
† **Всеволод,** *Архиепископ Української Православної Церкви США,*
† **Юрій,** *Єпископ Української Православної Церкви в Канаді,*
† **Іоанн,** *Єпископ Української Православної Церкви Діаспори,*
† **Єремія,** *Єпископ Української Православної Церкви Південної Америки.*

May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year!
ХРИСТОС РАЖДАЄТЬСЯ!



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* * *

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* * *

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Різдвяне послання Української Греко–Католицької Церкви

Всечесніші Отці!
Преподобні Ченці і Черниці!
Дорогі в Христі Браття і Сестри!

Христос Раджається!

Зближаємося до ювілейної двотисячної річниці народження Господа нашого Ісуса Христа. Не рік 2000–ий, одначе, а день самого народження нашого Спасителя дві тисячі років тому є тим днем, який став зломом двох епох, епохи поневолення гріхові і смерті та епохи звільнення від тої неволі та обожествлення. За нами тепер – здійснювати у нашому житті той величний Божий дар, який своїм вопло–ченням та народженням нам приніс наш Господь.

Ділимось з Вами радістю Христового при–шестя до нас, людей, і бажаємо з глибини серця многих дарів від вічно Новонародженого. Запевняємо про молитви і просимо про згадку у Ваших. Один одного і все життя наше Христові Новонародженому віддаймо.

У Христі Господі щиро віддані

+ *Мирослав Іван Кардинал Любачівський*
Глава Української Греко–Католицької Церкви
+ *Любомир,*
Єпископ Помічник Глави Української Греко–Католицької Церкви
+ *Юліян Гбур*
Єпископ Помічник Львівський
Різдво 1999

Різдвяне послання Української Католицької Митрополії в Канаді

ВПреосв. Михаїл Бздель, Ч.Н.І.
Митрополит Українців Католиків Канади
Привіт і святочні побажання для Братів і Сестер з приводу радісного празника Христового Різдва.

Дорогі Браття й Сестри!

З нагоди Радісного празника Різдва Христового й Нового Ро–ку, щиро вітаю Вас усіх і кож–ного зокрема, нашим радісним різдвяним привітом: Христос Раджається! Цей привіт приношу Вам в імені всіх наших владик, священиків, монахів і монахинь та всіх вірних нашої Канадської *Митрополії. А разом з цим* нашим різдвяним привітом, приношу Вам усім, від цілої Канадської Митрополії наші найщиріші побажання провести ці свята в тій радості, про яку говорив ангел Господній пасти–рям при народженні Христа, кажучи: «Я звіщаю Вам велику радість, що буде всім людям, бо народився вам сьогодні Спас, що він Христос Господь» (Лука, 2,).

Так, Дорогі Браття й Сестри, Різдво Христове – це день найбільшої радості в історії людства, бо це момент, коли Небесний Отець дав нам найбільший дар, що його міг дати, а саме свого Єдинородного Сина, що своїм життям, смертю й світлим воскресінням привер–нув нам право Божого синівства й дав нам дороговказ, як ми повинні жити й вмирати, щоб стати співучасниками його Бо–жого царства в небі і на землі.

Ось правдиве значення Різдва Христового.

Вступаючи в рік 1999–ий, рік Бога Отця, як наше дальше при–готування до Великого Ювілею 2000–го року, звернім нашу увагу на безмежну любов Отця до нас, Його дітей.

Пригадаймо собі чудовий об–раз Бога Отця, зображений в оповіданні про Блудного Сина, та його ніжну любов до обох своїх синів. Пригадаймо собі, що цей самий Бог, що «є неска–занний, незбагнений, невидимий, неосяжний, завжди сущий, і так само сущий» є постійно з нами, є так само милосердний та далі береже нас і нашу Святу Церкву.

В цьому 1999 році, призна–ченому окремому почитанню Бога отця з правдивою набож–ністю проказуймо Господню молитву «Отче наш».

Також, Дорогі Браття й Сес–три, я в дусі лину через океан до Вас, на Україну, вступаю до кожної Вашої хати й приношу Вам особисто радісний привіт Різдва Христового, з найкращи–ми побажаннями Щасливого Нового 1999 року. А в пешу чергу вітаю Главу нашої святої Церкви, Його Блаженство Бла–женнішого Архиепископа й Кар–динала Мирослава Любачівсь–кого, всіх наших Владик, Отців духовних, монахів і монахинь та всіх вірних на Україні, а також у всіх країнах нашого поселення.

Христос Раджається! Славіте Його!

Різдвяний привіт Посольства України в Канаді

Дорогі співвітчизники!

Щиро вітаю Вас з Різдвом Христовим та Новим 1999 роком!

Прийміть найкращі побажання щастя, міцного здоров'я, миру і благополуччя, успіхів у починаннях та веселих і світлих Різдвяних свят.

В Україні свідомі того, що її співвітчизники, які з'явились на теренах Канади більш ніж 100 років тому, зробили непересічний внесок у розвиток добробуту і багатокультурності цієї країни, яка зараз перетворилась на одну з провідних держав світу, надійного партнера України. Ми завжди пам'ятаємо важливу ролю, що відіграла українська діаспора Канади у відновленні державної незалежності нашої держави та підтримку за роки її становлення. В Україні з глибокою подякою сприймають внесок української діаспори у поглибленні двосторонніх зв'язків між нашими країнами і народами, утвердження міжнародного авторитету України, надання гуманітарної допомоги.

Україна продовжує торувати нелегкий шлях реформування суспільства. Цей шлях, на який інші країни витрачали століття, наша держава повинна проходити у значно коротший термін. Перед нашою державою стоять сьогодні дуже відповідальні завдання, найголовніші з яких консолідація суспільства, поглиблення ринкових реформ, зміцнення демократичних інститутів.

Наступний рік розпочнеться важливою подією у двосторонніх стосунках наших країн – у січні відбудеться перший візит до України Прем'єр–міністра Канади Ж. Кретьєна. Проведення цього офіційного візиту повністю віддзеркалює значення, якого обидві сторони надають розвитку відносин між нашими країнами, прагненню налагодити більш широку економічну співпрацю. Віримо, що новий рік виправдає наші сподівання і Україна досягне вагомих успіхів в ім'я ствердження її як демократичної європейської держави.

Шановні друзі, від колективу Посольство України в Канаді і себе особисто сердечно зичу всім українцям Канади міцного здоров'я, щастя, здійснення мрій і нових успіхів у Новому році.

В. Хандогій

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UKRAINIAN NEWS
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Another setback for D & D

For the second time in less than three months, a federal judge has dismissed the government's case for denaturalizing and deporting a Canadian citizen for misrepresenting himself upon entering Canada.

Dec. 21 Justice Marc Noel threw out the government's case against Johann Dueck, noting that not only did the government lack proof that he was a war criminal, but it also couldn't even show he was a member of a collaborating police force in the Ukrainian town of Selidovka.

Earlier, on Sept. 23, Justice William McKeown ruled that Latvian Canadian Peteris Arvids Vitols did not misrepresent his wartime past to Canadian authorities in the 1950's. It was this decision which prompted Justice Minister Anne McLellan to voice her "disappointment" with the ruling which, in turn, resulted in calls from the Ukrainian community for her resignation for attempting to influence the judiciary.

Yet despite her protestations, the very next D and D case to come up in court was abruptly dismissed. If anything this shows the serious flaws in what is totally misguided policy at best and a gross infringement upon civil liberties at worst.

Lawyers for Dueck were highly critical of the government for subjecting Dueck to years of emotional and financial devastation based on 55-year-old hearsay and flimsy conjecture.

"There was vilification of this man for the past 40 years," said Donald Bayne

"Then, they stand up at the beginning of the trial and have the nerve to say they have no evidence of war crimes.

"It has broken his family financially, and imagine all the emotional hardship of thinking about being sent back this way to a country you have not seen in many years."

By now this should be a familiar story. As in the previous case of Vitols, the current case of Valdimir Katriuk and the upcoming hearings for Wasyl Odynsky, no charges of any war crimes had or have been brought forward. Why, because not only does the government not have any evidence of any war crimes, it has the audacity to proceed without even bothering to file any. Yet these people are falsely labelled as "war criminals" by the government and subjected to campaigns of vilification and harassment. Their families too are put under extreme stress as they cope with the reality of mounting a $250,000 defence. And even if the case is thrown out, they still have to foot the bill. While the government just pours millions and millions of more dollars into this political vendetta.

The fact of the matter is that even under the suspension of fundamental legal safeguards that the D and D process entails, the immense odds against an individual facing the full power of the state and all the resources it can muster, the government is still losing its cases. Surely there is a message there.

It's high time that the government stopped this appalling vendetta and dropped the D and D policy once and for all. If there are alleged war criminals out there, then they should be prosecuted under criminal law and, if found guilty, should be punished under criminal law.

In addition, the government should stop its grossly discriminatory policy of targeting only so-called Nazi war criminal of Central and Eastern European origin. It should start proceedings against all war criminals, including communists, some of whom may be of Jewish origin. The Ukrainian community has demanded that the government proceed to investigate the possibility that communist war criminals may have found refuge in Canada.

St. John's organizations remain firmly against D & D

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Levytsky:

The Ukrainian Orthodox community in Edmonton is very grateful for the excellent coverage by your newspaper of St. John's Cathedral 75th anniversary in its Nov. 18 - Dec. 1 edition.

While our membership wholeheartedly supports your editorial ("To mend fences, revoke D and D policy"), that editorial may have inadvertently left some of your readers with the impression that, somehow, the Ukrainian Orthodox community welcomed Minister Anne McLellan without reservation. Allow me the opportunity to correct that potential misconception.

The facts are that, in staging events such as the 75th anniversary, the three levels of government are invited to send their highest ranking officials. The City of Edmonton chose to send no one, the province sent its top politician, the Hon. Ralph Klein, and the federal government sent Ms. McLellan.

While it is true Minister McLellan received a polite reception at the November 15 banquet, the true feelings of a significant part of the Ukrainian Orthodox community toward her visit are more accurately reflected in the reaction that followed. Your attention is drawn to letters to the Minister from at least four organizations affected which, representing as they do their membership, conveyed pointed criticism and dissatisfaction with Ms. McLellan's presence. I will let these letters speak for themselves.

Dr. Paul Kit, writing on behalf of Edmonton "TYC", pointed out to the Minister that St. John's congregation "abstained from any demonstrations not to embarrass you because as polite, cultured and patriotic citizens of Canada, we respect our Government and its Ministers." He added that St. John's members were expecting the justice minister to renounce the denaturalization and deportation policy during her greetings. "We can nicely do without hate-mongering or diversion of world attention from what transpires in the Holy Land," he added.

Theodore Hawrysh, president of St. John's Ukrainian Institute, in his letter stated: "Of particular concern is the dubious policy adopted by the Justice Department in collaboration with Citizenship and Immigration of denaturalization and deportation to deal with what your government insists on calling war criminals. It is no secret that the individuals you seek to extradite are entirely drawn from the east European community, of which the largest group in Canada is of Ukrainian extraction." As to the Minister's visit, Mr. Hawrysh was quite blunt: "No measure of assurances from you will erase the uneasy feeling generated by your untimely participation in a key celebration of our community, coming as it did in the midst of your department's relentless quest to unjustly discredit Canadians of Ukrainian heritage."

As a result of a resolution passed unanimously by the Board of St. John's Cathedral, the parish president qualified the parish's reception of the Minister by pointing out in his letter that "our hospitality does not lessen our members' steadfast opposition to the government's denaturalization and deportation process."

Writing on behalf of Alberta "CYC," provincial secretary Bruce Prytuluk did not mince his words in referring to Ms. McLellan's visit as "provocative." He went on to express the true feelings of CYC members in these words:

"As our views on the true nature and intent of your denaturalization and deportation policy are well known to you, it only remains for your government to admit its error, confess the source of your egregious actions, rid your Justice Department of the blight to Neal Sher, restore the criminal trial procedure, commence investigation and prosecution against Communist war criminals which cases were handed over to the federal government ten years ago, and cease undermining and impuning the integrity of innocent people — before it is too late."

In short, Minister McLellan's hurried visit to the crown jewel of our Edmonton parishes failed to advance her policial objectives, as she had no doubt hoped. Quite the contrary — she has since found out that federal politicians masquerading as friends of Ukrainians cannot continue to ignore our community's legitimate demands, while treating us with contempt and disdain.

Your truly,
Eugene Harasymiw, President
Alberta Ukrainian Self-Reliance League

In short, Minister McLellan's hurried visit to the crown jewel of our Edmonton parishes failed to advance her policial objectives, as she had no doubt hoped. Quite the contrary — she has since found out that federal politicians masquerading as friends of Ukrainians cannot continue to ignore our community's legitimate demands, while treating us with contempt and disdain.

Ukrainian News reader protests immigration policy

(UkrNews)—A Ukrainian News reader has protested the low number of Ukrainian immigrants to Canada to the minister of citizenship and immigration.

In a Dec. 14 letter to Lucienne Robillard, written in reaction to an editorial in Ukrainian News which he attached, Clarence Kenway noted that during the 65 years of Soviet rule, immigration to Canada from Ukraine was practically nil, while during at least some of that period other countries were landing thousands of their people as immigrants into Canada.

"Is it not about time that this fact be kept in mind and that people of Ukraine be given an even break by relaxing rather than maintaining self-serving restrictions devised and formerly used by the Communist regime?," he queried.

"My sincere suggestion would be that immigration from Ukraine be re-examined and revised where necessary. For example: the question of adequate staffing at the Kyiv Embassy and closer communication between Ottawa bureaucrats and the Ukrainian Community in Canada," Kenway said.

Copies of the letter were sent Edmonton MPs Rahim Jaffer, Anne McLellan, Deborah Grey and David Kilgour, as well as Ukrainian News and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Headquarters.

"I know that the immediate reaction would be to state that immigration numbers are not necessarily based on the size of the population of the country of origin. That may well be, but we should not be so enthused with affording special considerations to some cases to the point of either denying or neglecting equitably rational treatment to others," wrote Kenway.

"One could reasonably expect that with the demise of the Soviet regime and the rise of Ukraine as a free and democratic republic it should be possible for its people to be accepted as suitable immigrants under prevailing standard rules and commensurate with the population of the country from whence they come."

Comparing the figures for immigration from Ukraine (20th on the list of countries of origin in 1998) with that of Jamaica (18th), and the United Arab Emirates (19th), Kenway noted that one immigrant was admitted for every 707 Jamaicans, one for every 54 residents of the UAE and only one for every 21,187 Ukrainians.

"With the results that the above comparisons indicate, no self-respecting Canadian of Ukrainian descent would applaud the anomaly that emanates from the immigration policy currently applied to the people from Ukraine," he said.

Orthodox, Catholic hierarchies need to resolve differences

By Harry Beskorovayny,
Gronlid, Saskatchewan

Commentary

The subject of faith (or lack of it) crops up often in the Ukrainian Churches, both Orthodox or Catholic. Recently it was the sermon subject given by the local Orthodox priest. Citing the coming millennium and the huge significance of it to all Christians, he noted a definite lack of enthusiasm among the Ukrainian Community toward the coming event. He wondered openly, Why?

Perhaps the answer lies in the continuing decline of church memberships affecting both Ukrainian Catholics and Orthodox alike, especially in the rural communities. There must be a degree of apathy there, given the fact that we have a lot of members that are jokingly labelled as C & E (Xmas & Easter) church-goers. Many belong to the church just as a status symbol and do little to promote the Faith. In the rural communities, where we used to have so many farmers and numerous churches of both faiths, parishes struggle to maintain the structures, the cemeteries, the grounds as well as trying to afford the services of the priest, all to a handful of people. A daunting task, indeed.

All this is being done in a continuing conflict that separates the Catholic and Orthodox flocks and no-one is winning except perhaps the Devil. In a time of scarcity of priests preaching to a handful of faithful, when there are Ukrainians nearby sitting home with the excuse, "To Ne Nasha", leads to gross hypocrisy to those that profess the same God. Christ's emphasis on the Commandment "Love Thy neighbor as Thyself" should overrule the differences that Ukrainians hang on to, and renew themselves in the Eastern form of Faith and collectively partake of the worship, always respecting the minor differences. How much more rewarding would it be to a priest to have his sermon digested by twice as many people? As a churchgoer that aspires to the Byzantine Worship regardless whether it is Catholic or Orthodox, 50% of my spiritual satisfaction lies in a good sermon, given by a gifted priest, one who can nudge the inner soul out of the routine of our daily toils. The other 50% lies in partaking of the singing, all in a church full of Icons that are as if looking from their Heavenly perches ad assessing our prayers.

In order to attain a renewed type of worship that may attract a increased following, it would be necessary for the Hierarchy of both Churches to acknowledge Christ's true message and translate it into action. Many Ukrainians are skeptical of the Faiths when they hear of the factions battling it out for their share of turf in Native Ukraine. When one group, having gained ownership of the church, bars the doors and refuses to bury the deceased of the other faith, does this inspire anyone to aspire to that faith? Is this what Christ taught? It is happening all along, dividing families into bitter camps, bound to feuding for generations. Someone once said that the church is 90% politics and 10% religion; is this a credible quote?

In order for positive things to happen, the hierarchy of both Faiths have to sit down and define the differences within their group that can be resolved. The Catholics would have to extract, from an intransigent Pope a greater autonomy for its people of the Eastern faith. The true worship and its traditions have to be defined and versions of it applied to the modern aspirations of the faithful. Some changes have to take place, to rekindle the love of Ukrainian Christian worship. No one side should claim monopoly as the gatekeeper of the Ukrainian door to heaven. But the onus has to come from the top for, if one was to see it emanate from the rank and file churchgoer, all we can expect is a continuing slow exodus to faiths where the acceptable changes have taken place, and sadly, it will not be a Ukrainian Church.

In pinpointing some changes, we can look at the language first. Has the introduction of English into the service resulted into more attendance? The Catholic community have made big inroads into almost eliminating Ukrainian except the hymns perhaps. Naturally in big urban centres, there are enough people to have separate services in both languages. But in the sparce rural areas, a mixture of both can result in better attendance.

One inhibiting factor in the Orthodox faith is that the priest can only attend to one Liturgy a day. The Catholics are only restricted by the energy of the priest and time. In one sense it permits the priest to visit several communities during Sunday and offer the communion and sermon to the people. In endeavoring to strengthen the faith, much more efforts have to be made by the clergy to increase the number of interrelationships with the faithful, not necessarily meaning a full-fledged liturgical service in a church. Many parishioners of both faiths complain that the once yearly Jordan period visitation in the Blessing of homes by the priest and the customary handsome renumeration is very often done in a time restricting way and does very little to nourish renewed faith to the majority.

For a faith that encompassed so many types of worship, books and books of the various chants and melodies, it is reduced to, basically the Liturgy, because there are few cantors that are fluent in all the chants and fewer still are the people that wholeheartedly seek to glorify God that way. In some Catholic parishes the Liturgy is just read, much as pupils would recite in an English class in school, unless the priest was energetic enough to sing both his and the cantor's part. How strong then, is such a faith and how can it endure?

Without further delving in and dissecting the historical and traditional types of worship in the Eastern Faith and analyzing it in today's 20th century context and relevance, we have to turn to the hierarchy of both Churches to self examine the needs of the Ukrainian people (in diaspora). With the continuing decline of active worshippers we can ask, Is the bureaucracy needlessly top-heavy? Are there areas of basic interests where, in an atmosphere of Christian love, some restructuring can result in mutual benefits for both Catholic and Orthodox Ukrainians? I challenge the higher Church leaders to this task. We have to preserve what is left of the Ukrainian Churches. Only by example within Christ's love, can we hope to maintain our ranks and attract those that might ascribe to the Byzantine Faith. let us, therefore, make better use of our clergy and our temples, because the cliche rings ever so true, "United we stand, Divided we fall". Even some form of unity is better than none at all.

Belarus - Russia: A divisive call for unity

By Paul Goble

Analysis

(RFE/RL)—An agreement between the Russian and Belarusian presidents to move toward the merger of their countries is sending shockwaves through both countries, the other post-Soviet states, and the West as well. And it is having this effect even though many people in all three places are now dismissing this accord either because they oppose such a new union state or because they doubt that these two former Soviet republics will ever form one.

On Dec. 25 Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Belarusian counterpart Alyaksandr Lukashenka signed a series of accords in the Kremlin that both men said pointed toward the unification of the two countries into a single state, possibly as soon as mid-1999.

And while they promised that there would be "public discussion" of this idea — the Russian press even called for a plebiscite — the two presidents said that they had already agreed to introduce a single currency and common tax system early next year.

Not surprisingly, this announcement has had an immediate impact in the two countries most directly affected. In Russia, reformers have spoken out against this move. On the one hand, they are concerned about the way in which this agreement was reached. And on the other, they view it as a threat to democracy and free market economics, with many fearful that such a reunification would transform the authoritarian Belarusian president into a major player on the Russian political scene.

That latter possibility — a Lukashenka run for the Russian presidency — has somewhat dampened the enthusiasm of Russian communists and nationalists who otherwise welcome what they see as a restoration of the past and a challenge to NATO and the West. Consequently, at least some of them may oppose the reunification of the two countries for the same reason they have blocked it earlier: the enormous financial costs unity would impose on Russia itself.

Meanwhile, in Belarus, the impact of the accord has been still more dramatic. Given the extent of Lukashenka's increasingly authoritarian control in Minsk, Belarusian officials have dutifully backed the Yeltsin-Lukashenka deal.

But democratic activists opposed to it clashed with police over the weekend. And the Belarusian Popular Front issued a statement noting that the accord reflects Lukashenka's willingness "to eliminate Belarusian statehood" in order to enhance his power.

This fundamental difference of opinion sets the stage for ever sharper political combat between Lukashenka and those Belarusians who are committed not only to national independence but to democracy, free markets, and cooperation with the West.

As dramatic as that clash is likely to be in the coming weeks and months, the consequences of the Yeltsin-Lukashenka accord on Russian relations with the other post-Soviet states and with the West are likely to prove far more significant.

The Yeltsin-Lukashenka accord appears certain to presage an expanded effort by Moscow to promote the reintegration of the former Soviet republics. And such a move will almost certainly exacerbate relations within and among them.

Within many of these countries, some political factions will welcome proposals for closer relations, given their current economic difficulties. But there will be many more who will oppose any such moves lest they lead as with Belarus to the extinction of national statehood.

And whatever the outcome in the short term, such domestic conflicts are likely to leave many of the governments involved weakened politically, thus setting the stage for increased Russian influence there despite Moscow's current weakness.

But the greatest challenge by far that is posed by the Yeltsin-Lukashenka agreement may be to Western governments: First, it represents a direct challenge to NATO which is now scheduled to include Poland as a member later this spring.

Second, it highlights the continuing influence in Moscow of those interested in reversing the 1991 dissolution of the Soviet Union and calls into question Yeltsin's past commitments to oppose any such revision.

And third, by setting the stage for greater conflict among the post-Soviet states as well as between Moscow and the West, this agreement may force Western governments to play a very different role than they would like.

While increased conflict in the region may lead some to advocate a further retrenchment of Western involvement in the region, increased conflict between Moscow and the West would likely have precisely the opposite effect.

And for all these reasons, the Yeltsin-Lukashenka accord appears likely to define the nature of many conflicts in the post-Soviet states during the next year as well as the ways in which all the players will respond.

David Kilgour, P.C., M.P.
Edmonton Southeast

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Duma finally ratifies Ukraine treaty

(Eastern Economist)—Russia's State Duma ratified the stalled Friendship, Partnership and Cooperation Treaty with Ukraine on Dec. 25 despite political disagreements and worries about the Slav neighbor forming ties with NATO.

After a heated debate, the Duma voted by 244 to 30 to ratify the pact signed in May 1997 with only the faction of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party headed by Vladimir Zhirinovsky against ratification. It also adopted a separate resolution urging Ukraine to cooperate in sorting out outstanding problems.

It took the Duma a long time to ratify this agreement, afterall, it was ratified by the Ukrainian parliament on Jan. 14, 1998. At that time, then Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko stated that the signing of the 41 article agreement is a "historic event not only for the development of bilateral relations, but for the whole international community."

The treaty outlines basic principles in bilateral relations, confirms mutual respect for territorial integrity and the inviolability of existing borders, with both states agreeing not to have any territorial claims to each other's territory.

Both nations also reject the use of force or threat of economic or other pressure against one another and pledge not to sign any treaties with third parties which could be directed against each other.

In recent years, relations have worsened in the light of trade rows, the Black Sea Fleet, the rights of the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine and a series of other issues.

President Leonid Kuchma said Dec. 25 that ratification is in the interests of both states, adding he wanted Russia to overcome its present financial crisis as soon as possible. About 40 percent of Ukraine's trade is with Russia.

Upon the news of ratification, Kuchma and his Russian counterpart, Boris Yeltsin, congratulated each other over the phone.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry issued a declaration expressing satisfaction at the ratification of the treaty which, it said, would help further the development of equal bilateral cooperation, which was to the advantage of both countries.

Nationalists demand Tkachenko's ouster

Speaker endorses common currency, Slavic union while in Moscow

(RFE/RL/JF Monitor/Eastern Economist)—Ten nationalist parties on Dec. 21 demanded that parliamentary speaker Oleksandr Tkachenko be sacked for appealing during his trip the previous week to Moscow that Ukraine integrate with Russia, ITAR-TASS reported.

Tkachenko said in Moscow that Ukraine must integrate closer with Russia by creating a "common defense doctrine and economic space" and sharing a "single currency."

Tkachenko told journalists in Kyiv on Dec. 21 that when he was in Moscow, he was expressing the Ukrainian parliament's point of view, not only his own.

"I express my opinions as head of the Supreme Council, as a state official. I have said some time ago [that] I am not the first [official], but neither am I the second," Ukrainian Television quoted him as saying.

In an address to the Duma and in meetings with the leaders of both chambers of the Russian parliament, Tkachenko endorsed some of the most ambitious goals of Russia's hardliners with regard to Ukraine.

Tkachenko spoke out in favor of: working out a common defense doctrine and a common Russian-Ukrainian position toward NATO's enlargement; merging the Russian and Ukrainian Black Sea fleets; and creating a common currency, a "common economic space" and a "common broadcast space."

Tkachenko endorsed as a "vital necessity" the Russian Duma Chairman Gennady Seleznev's project of a Russian-Belarusan-Ukrainian "Slavic Union." A delighted Seleznev mused aloud that the three countries' presidents and parliamentary leaders might meet to sign a union pact — a remark which seemed to presuppose a Red victory in Ukraine's upcoming presidential election.

Seleznev had launched the Slavic Union proposal in a recent speech in the Ukrainian parliament, amid tumultuous controversy which highlighted the chamber's political polarization.

Rada approves Crimean constitution

Tatars want their rights protected

RFE/RL)—By a vote of 230 to 67 the parliament on Dec. 23 approved a new constitution for Crimea, Ukraine's only autonomous republic.

The constitution allows Crimea to have its own government and legislature and permits the republic to independently sign foreign trade deals.

It also stipulates that all taxes and duties collected on Crimean territory are to be directed to the republic's budget.

Over the past six years, Crimean lawmakers have submitted four constitutional drafts, but all were either rejected or approved only partially due to what Kyiv's parliamentarians considered separatist provisions.

The latest constitution draft was approved after deputies had inserted a separate provision that bans Crimea from approving legislation not in accord with Ukrainian law.

Two days earlier some 1,000 Crimean Tatars demonstrated in Simferopol to protest the adoption of the Crimean Constitution in its current version, Ukrainian Television reported.

They called on the Ukrainian parliament not to approve that constitution until it incorporates provisions that would guarantee Tatar representation in the Crimean legislature and local government.

The Supreme Council rejected the constitution after some lawmakers argued that it contains separatist provisions.

Communist leader attacks NATO links

(Eastern Economist)—Communist faction leader Petro Symonenko spoke out Dec. 23 against continued cooperation with NATO, saying that fulfillment of the current Ukraine-NATO program would require a dozen billion dollars.

He said that the communists were against US and NATO intrusion into internal affairs of Ukraine, because the communists feel that they dictate economical, social, and defense policy to the state.

The communist faction is also demanding that Premier Valeriy Pustovoitenko dismiss the Cabinet's Minister Anatoliy Tolstoukhov, for allegedly having organized observation of deputies work in their electoral districts.

Newsbriefs

Ukraine's population decline continues

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine's State Statistics Committee reported on Dec. 29 that Ukraine's population declined by an estimated 205,000 people in 1998 and now stands at 50.09 million. It was the fifth consecutive year in which a population decline has been registered. In 1993, the total population stood at slightly more than 52 million.

Miner dies from burns

(Eastern Economist)—Krasnodon miner Oleksandr Mykhaylevych, who set himself on fire to protest delayed salary payments to miners, died Dec. 28 at 10:30 p.m. in a Luhansk Oblast hospital. He left a note behind stating that he cannot tolerate cruel treatment from administrators and mine heads. Miners who picketed Luhansk oblast administration contributed around Hr 4,000 for Mykhaylevych's treatment.

Crimean deputy charged with murder plot

(RFE/RL)—Crimean police have arrested Mykola Kotlyarevskyy, a deputy of the Crimean parliament, Ukrainian Television reported on Dec. 28. Kotlyarevskyy is charged with plotting a contract murder and a long string of assaults, extortion, and engaging in swindling cases with the assistance of a gang in 1994-97. Hennadiy Moskal, head of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry's Crimean Directorate, said the Crimean parliament "has at least three [other] deputies with a criminal record," but did not disclose their names.

Lazarenko released on bail

PGO wants to remove ex-premier's immunity

(JF Monitor)—On Dec. 22, former Ukrainian Premier Pavlo Lazarenko made his first public appearance after his release on bail from a Geneva prison the previous week. Lazarenko is charged with embezzlement and money-laundering at home and in Switzerland.

Addressing the parliament, Lazarenko claimed that his Swiss arrest was instigated by the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office (PGO) to discredit him and his party, the Hromada. Lazarenko announced that 19 out of 21 counts he was charged with in Geneva were proved false, and the remaining two will be cleared up soon.

The former premier defied the PGO's request to parliament to cancel his immunity by saying he is willing to give up the immunity if President Leonid Kuchma and his "close supporters" do the same.

Speaking at a press conference at UNIAN news agency, Lazarenko was self-assured and jovial. He stigmatized the PGO's charges as politically motivated, and said that by indicting him, the authorities "have unleashed a dirty war, in which there will be no winners" — which sounded like a challenge. Apparently in an effort to besmirch his opponents in the government, who are accusing him of corruption, Lazarenko claimed that "there have been certain agreements, a threshold which was not to have been stepped over. One side has done so. The other is about to do so." Lazarenko alleged that certain Kuchma aides have illegal bank accounts abroad. He also claimed that over 100 domestic enterprises have been handed out to parliamentarians in return for votes on certain issues.

Lazarenko had to indirectly confess that in redrawing the domestic gas market in 1995-1996 as deputy premier and then premier, he acted on the verge of illegal: "I am no angel, unfortunately, this is true."

When in power, Lazarenko reportedly helped the private importer of Russian gas, United Energy Systems of Ukraine (UESU), gain control over the most lucrative sectors of the domestic economy and evade taxation on large scale. Then UESU president, Lazarenko's close associate Yulia Tymoshenko, now plays a leading role in Hromada and chairs the parliament's committee for the budget.

Lazarenko and Tymoshenko both enjoy parliamentary immunity, and thus are out of reach of Ukrainian prosecution. Kuchma reacted to Lazarenko's statements by saying that it is up to the court to determine the truth. Meanwhile two factions in parliament, the reformist Rukh and the radical left Progressive Socialist Party, announced that they would vote for lifting the immunity from Lazarenko. The date of the vote is not yet known.

The PGO officially requested the parliament to lift the deputy immunity from Lazarenko the previous day. Prosecutor General Mykhaylo Potebenko said that the prosecution has "indisputable proofs" to charge Lazarenko with embezzlement of over US$2 million and illegal operations with accounts in foreign banks, totaling 4.4 million Swiss francs and some US$1.2 million. For this, Lazarenko may face up to 15 years of imprisonment — if the immunity is lifted. Potebenko also added that investigation into alleged embezzlement of another US$17 million by Lazarenko is now underway.

Pavlo Lazarenko

Potebenko's announcement followed Kuchma's television interview on Dec. 20, in which he said that, while suspected embezzlers are hiding behind parliamentary immunity, "the common people are pointing the finger of suspicion at all of us." In an obvious reference to Lazarenko, Kuchma said, "If he is a criminal, then he is a criminal and not a political figure".

In a parallel investigation in Switzerland, where he was arrested with a Panamanian passport earlier this month, Lazarenko is suspected of money-laundering, and his bank accounts there are frozen.

Lazarenko was released from a Geneva prison on bail of over 4 million Swiss francs, and on Dec. 19 he returned to his native Dnipropetrovsk. Lazarenko's lawyer refused to disclose who paid the bail.

The prosecution's request to parliament concerning Lazarenko's immunity has long been anticipated. As far back as March, shortly before the parliament elections, Potebenko asked to lift the immunity from Lazarenko himself, but then withdrew the request.

More recently, in September, Potebenko turned to the lawmakers to lift the immunity from Lazarenko's close associate, Mykola Ahafonov, also suspected of embezzlement. Commenting to television on the possible vote on Lazarenko in parliament, people's deputies were mostly very skeptical about positive decision on his "extradition", quoting the corporate interests of lawmakers, who are interested in preserving the parliamentary immunity as such.

Newsbriefs

Businessman shot dead in Odesa

(Eastern Economist)—Contract killings continue to take place in Odesa. Before it was mainly journalists, but now it's entrepreneurs. The Director of the Konstantsa firm, 56-year-old Yevhen Harbuz was shot in Odesa Dec. 28 with two bullets from a Makarov hand-gun.

Gas chief gunned down

(Eastern Economist)—Oleh Garbuz, president of the gas company "Konstanza" was killed in a contract killing near his offices in Kyiv Dec. 23. His company transfers gas from Turkey to Ukraine.

Suspected serial killer arrested

(Eastern Economist)—A suspect, aged 28, was arrested in Sevastopol Dec. 18 and confessed to the rape and murder of two people in 1998. He later confessed to a series of killings in 1992-1998.

Kuchma urges referendum on immunity

(Eastern Economist)—President Leonid Kuchma once again confirmed his intentions to put the issue of removal of deputy immunity to a national referendum. He said Dec. 28 that a lot of deputies avoid criminal responsibility for crimes committed because of their immunity.

Rada cuts back armed forces

(RFE/RL)—The Supreme Council on Dec. 22 passed a bill reducing the current 320,000 servicemen by 10,000 and the army's 100,000 civilian staff by the same amount in 1999, Ukrainian media reported. The Ukrainian government has said it can spend only some 1 billion hryvni (C$410 million) on the army next year. The Defense Ministry, however, maintains that the armed forces need at least three times that amount.

Ukrainian plane downed in war-torn Angola

(JF Monitor)—The general staff of the Angolan army confirmed Dec. 16 that a Ukrainian AN-12 plane was shot down on Dec. 14 by a surface-to-air missile over a combat zone.

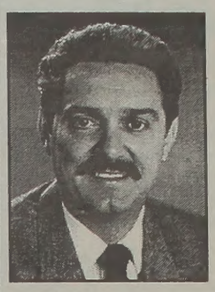
Aboard the plane were five Ukrainian crewmen, five Angolan officers and an unspecified cargo.

The Kyiv-based Khors company had leased the plane, complete with its crew, to the Angolan government forces for transport missions.

The regular Angolan army is fighting UNITA rebel forces in the south of the country.

The Ukrainian plane was hit shortly after takeoff from the town of Kuito during a rebel offensive in that area.

Earlier this month, another war-torn African country — Uganda — received a massive consignment of Ukrainian tanks.



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Newsbriefs

Navy faces bleak future

(Eastern Economist)—Ukraine's Navy possesses 40 battleships and another 80 assisting vessels. According to experts, if proper financing for the fleet is not found, and no new ships are produced, by 2005 the number of battle ships will decrease by six times and in another 10 years Ukraine will be left with only two battleships. According to Navy Commander-in-Chief Mykhailo Yezhel, for the last three years, the fleet has received only 27-45 percent of required finances.

Monika sweets a hit

(Eastern Economist)—The Khmelnytskiy Confectionery Factory has begun production of a new brand of sweets called Monika, the newspaper "Den" reported Dec. 24, in honor of the hapless companion of the US president. The price is Hr 4 per box. An Israeli firm has apparently already put in a large order for Monika.

Ukraine to print money for wages

(RFE/RL)—Prime Minister Valeriy Pustovoytenko said on Dec. 22 that Ukraine will print money next year to cover its mounting wage arrears, AP reported. He added that the cabinet plans a monetary emission of 1 billion hryvni (C$410 million), but he did not say how he expects the money emission to affect the 1999 inflation rate, which has been forecast at 19 percent.

Kuchma requests abolition

(RFE/RL)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has asked the Supreme Council to pass a law abolishing the death penalty in accordance with the country's international obligations, AP reported on Dec. 19. Ukraine agreed to abolish capital punishment in 1995 when it joined the Council of Europe. It introduced a moratorium on executions in March 1997. This year, Ukrainian courts have sentenced more than 80 people to death, but none has been executed.

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Kuchma attacked by loyalists

(JF Monitor)—Following President Leonid Kuchma's latest attack on parliament and suggestions to amend the constitution by referendum, the political council of the People's Democratic Party (NDP) of Ukraine has released a statement rebuking the head of state for his "inadequate pronouncement" on the constitution and lack of esteem concerning political parties.

The NDP's leadership called on Kuchma to begin a dialogue with parties in parliament to solve economic and political problems of the state, and warned that calls for revision of the constitution may "seriously destabilize the society".

In his address to regional media representatives on Dec. 15, Kuchma proposed to prolong by five years the presidential authority to introduce economic legislation by decree (the constitution's transitional regulation, giving this right to the head of state, expires in June 1999), suggested that Ukraine needs a bicameral parliament and claimed that parties represent no more than three percent of the nation.

The NDP, the major reformist party, which has the second largest faction in parliament after the communists, has, contrary to general expectations, not yet voiced its support of Kuchma's second presidential bid.

Recently, the NDP's first deputy head, Yevhen Kushnaryov, criticized the president for slow political and economic reforms. He said that the NDP would not support those actions of the president which contradict the principles of democracy. Kushnaryov resigned as the head of Kuchma's staff last month.

To all appearances, Kuchma is gradually losing support of the party, which was created in early 1996 by state officials loyal to him, including members of presidential staff and government. For this, the NDP was dubbed "the party of power."

Marchuk resigns as head of USDP faction

(JF Monitor)—The Ukrainian Prime Minister in 1995-1996 and current presidential aspirant, Yevhen Marchuk, has resigned as head of the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) faction in parliament.

Marchuk explained this with his decision to concentrate on his work as chairman of the parliament committee for social policy and labor. Marchuk was replaced by Oleksandr Zinchenko, a businessman and television manager, creator of Inter, a joint venture with the Russian ORT.

Most probably, the real reason behind Marchuk's resignation is the USDP reluctance to back his presidential bid. Marchuk ran as Number 2 on the USDP list in the parliamentary elections of March 1998, but never officially joined the party.

The USDP faction consists mostly of wealthy businessmen reportedly loyal to President Leonid Kuchma. Marchuk was dismissed from the post of premier by Kuchma in May 1995 for harboring presidential ambitions.

In October 1997, Marchuk was the first politician to publicly announce intentions to run in the elections of 1999. Despite his early start and general expectations of a successful campaign, Marchuk seems to have, at best, only a middling chance of winning. His use of the media, some of which he controls, including the quality daily newspaper "Den," has been lame.

In recent polls, Marchuk trails far behind Kuchma and several leftist presidential candidates. Neither of the big parties has so far backed his bid: A professed moderate reformer, he does not appeal to the "reds;" and leaders of the largest reformist force, the Rukh, on several occasions noted that the party would never in principle support Marchuk because of his KGB past. Marchuk spent some 30 years climbing up the career ladder in the KGB, and headed its Ukrainian successor, the SBU, in 1991-1994.

Rada approves 1999 budget revenues

(RFE/RL)—By a vote of 272 to 114, the Supreme Council on Dec. 29 approved the 1999 budget revenues of 34 billion hryvni (C$15.2 billion) and a government-proposed deficit of one percent of GDP (1.24 billion hryvni), AP and the Ukrainian News agency reported.

Ukraine needs a well- balanced low-deficit budget in order to obtain further tranches of a suspended US$2.2 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Many analysts predict that without foreign aid, Ukraine will not be able to repay its 1999 debt obligations.

Four days earlier, the Supreme Council postponed the budget debate after deputies failed to agree on the projected deficit of one percent of GDP.

Finance Minister Ihor Mityukov, who presented the budget to lawmakers, argued that with Ukraine's economy expected to decline by one percent in 1999 it is unrealistic to count on revenues and expenditures as high as the parliament wanted.

Meanwhile, President Leonid Kuchma on Dec. 26 said he will leave lawmakers without their salaries unless they pass the 1999 draft budget.

"This is for sure. This cannot go on like this," ITAR-TASS quoted him as saying.

On Dec. 26 the parliament also increased Ukraine's minimum wage the same day from 55 hryvni (C$25) to 73.7 hryvni and set the official poverty level at 90.7 hryvni. The decision was taken two days after the legislature failed to override Kuchma's veto on a bill passed in November, which nearly tripled the minimum wage to 148 hryvni.

Massive import of Turkmen gas to resume

(JF Monitor)—Meeting Dec. 27 in Ashgabat, Presidents Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and Saparmurat Niazov of Turkmenistan agreed on the immediate resumption of Turkmen gas supplies to Ukraine after an interruption of almost two years.

The agreement envisages the delivery of 20 billion cubic metres of gas in 1999 at a cost of US$720 million. The Naftohaz Ukrainy company is the authorized trader for this transaction. Ukraine will pay 60 percent of the cost in goods and services and 40 percent in hard currency. The ratio, clearly favorable to Ukraine, has been made possible by Turkmenistan's almost desperate need to resume gas exports through the Russian pipeline network to Europe. Turkmenistan has at its disposal — aside from the Russian route — only one pipeline of modest capacity, which runs to Iran.

Russia's Gazprom company, in March 1997, blocked Turkmen gas exports through Russian pipelines by demanding exorbitant transit fees. The measure dealt Turkmenistan a heavy economic blow while preserving Gazprom's virtual monopoly on the Ukrainian market. It also left Turkmenistan with some $600 million worth of Ukrainian arrears for past deliveries of gas.

The implementation of the Kuchma-Niazov agreement depends on Russian consent to transiting the gas. Kyiv and Ashgabat hope to come to terms with Moscow before Dec. 31 on transit fees and forms of payment. One proposal would allow Russia's Stavropol and Krasnodar territories to retain for their own needs a part of the Turkmen gas in transit to Ukraine.

Kuchma assesses 1998 as "complex, contradictory"

(RFE/RL)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said at a ceremony of bestowing state awards in Kyiv on Dec. 28 that the year 1998 was "complex and contradictory," but "the situation is neither hopeless nor tragic," Ukrainian Television reported.

According to Kuchma, Ukrainians need to "halt complaining about unfavorable conditions, roll up their sleeves, and get down to work." Kuchma criticized those politicians who made "populist proposals and promises" during the debate of Ukraine's 1999 draft budget.

"Unfortunately, I have no grounds to say that the upcoming year 1999 will be much easier [than 1998]. It is obviously impossible to resolve sore problems quickly and painlessly," he added.

Ukraine objects to bombing of Iraq

(RFE/RL/Eastern Economist)—Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said on Dec. 17 that it cannot agree with U.S. and British military strikes on Iraq and expresses regret over civilian casualties as a result of those strikes, Reuters reported.

"Ukraine, which has consistently pronounced for resolving any conflict situations by peaceful political means, cannot agree with force methods of tackling this issue," the ministry said in a statement.

The statement warned against "unpredictable consequences [of the strikes] for the region and whole world" and expresses the hope that the UN Security Council will do "whatever is possible to avoid further escalation of tension around Iraq."

Russia, Iran, Pakistan, India and China were also quick to condemn the attacks, "Nobody has the right to act independently in the name of the UN and less to pretend to be judge for the entire world," said Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. A Chinese statement called the attack "a violation of the UN charter and the principles of international law."

The four nights of bombing began Dec. 16 with missile attacks designed to knock out Iraq's anti-aircraft capabilities, and went on into Dec. 17, with British and US warplanes flying sorties.

The attacks came after the publication of the long awaited UN weapons inspectors report, which American President Bill Clinton called "stark, sobering and profoundly disturbing."

An earlier threat of force Nov. 14 had forced a climb down from Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, but he was warned that next time there would be no discussions.

Clinton said, "In halting our air strikes in November, I gave Saddam a chance, not a license. If we turn our backs on his defiance, the credibility of U.S. power as a check against Saddam will be destroyed," the US President said. "We will not only have allowed Saddam to shatter the inspections system that controls his weapons of mass destruction program; we also will have fatally undercut the fear of force that stops Saddam from acting to gain domination in the region."

Britain's Tony Blair, in an emergency address to the House of Commons, stressed: "We are taking military action with much regret but also with real determination".

On Dec. 23 Ukraine's Supreme Council approved a decision to provide humanitarian assistance to Iraq. The decision was approved by a margin of 226 to 29. The aid will consist of clothing left over from the aid received after the flooding in Zakarpattia.

Miners to get back wages after rioting

(RFE/RL)—Following the attempted storming of the regional administration building in Luhansk by picketing miners, the Coal Mining Ministry has transferred 1.4 million hryvni ($615,000) to pay back wages, Ukrainian Television reported, Dec. 17.

Some striking miners in Luhansk Oblast will receive payment only after a month, however.

In the meantime, miners have dismantled a tent camp where they had lived for nearly six months in order to picket the Luhansk administration building to demand the payment of wage arrears. The previous day some 200 miners on 16 December attempted to storm the regional government building after months of demonstrating outside that building to demand unpaid wages, AP reported.

Police managed to stop the miners after they pushed down iron barriers in front of the building.

The incident occurred two days after one of the protesting miners set himself on fire in Luhansk (see Ukrainian News, Dec. 16-30).

Ukraine's miners are owed more than 2 billion hryvni in Back wages.

Moroz calls for populist candidate

(Eastern Economist)—Socialist Party head Oleksandr Moroz said Dec. 21 that the Socialist Party will be ready to support a non-socialist candidate in the presidential elections if that was the only candidate capable of uniting a wide coalition and transcending party boundaries.

Moroz said that the socialists were ready to start negotiations with the Progressive Socialist Party as Rural Party head had Serhiy Dovhan proposed.

However, he voiced fears that such negotiations may not be possible in the current political climate, adding, "the Presidential administration will not allow such negotiations."

The Progressive Socialist Party is currently of the same opinion as the presidential administration that any leftist candidate is acceptable except Moroz, he feels.

e said that Ukraine definitely needs five to 15 years to transform into an effective parliamentary democracy.

Moroz cited clarification of the relationship between president and parliament in the constitution as a priority.

Earlier this month President Leonid Kuchma took up the cause of constitutional reform with calls for a referendum on certain issues.

Newsbriefs

New Rada faction announced

(Eastern Economist)—The creation of a new parliamentarian faction Reformy-Tsentr (Reforms-Centre) was announced Dec. 22. Faction member and Deputy Mykhailo Syrota said that the faction was created in the wake of the Constitutional Court's decision Dec. 5 that overruled a previous ruling stating that parliamentary factions can only be created by parties who canvassed more than four percent in parliamentary elections. Fourteen deputies have so far joined the new faction, the first to be formed since the ruling.

More presidential coalitions forming

(Eastern Economist)—Republican Christian Party heads decided to join the coalition of Rukh Party and Reformy i Poriadok Party Dec. 23 to back a single candidate in the forthcoming presidential elections. Republican Christian Party head Mykola Porovskiy said that the party is ready to support the incumbent, with other names proposed being Rukh leader Viacheslav Chornovil and former Foreign Secretary Hennadiy Udovenko.

Moroz ready to oust Kuchma

(Eastern Economist)—Socialist Party head Oleksandr Moroz said Dec. 23 during a meeting with Khmelnytskiy agricultural sector workers that society is ready to hold a referendum on the premature suspension of President Leonid Kuchma's term in office. He added that the situation in Ukraine can only improve when three issues are addressed, price formation, taxation, and credit access.

Official unemployment rises

(Eastern Economist)—The State Statistics Committee said Dec. 21 that the official unemployment level by Dec. 1 stood at 3.5 percent of the workforce. Those officially unemployed number 954,100, up 1.5 times on 1997 figures, and five percent on November figures. Nationally, there are 27 people competing for every job. The worst hit region, according to official figures, is Ivano-Frankivsk, were 302 people compete for every employment opportunity.

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СУМівський танцювальний гурток «Дунай» завершає святкування танцем «Гопак».

Відзначення 25–річчя Дому Української Молоді в Едмонтоні

Василь Багнюк

Вже стало в нас традицією через 25 років, що кожного року в половині місяця листопада наша громада ОУДФ відзначує річницю відкриття дому, якого першу частину дано до вжитку в листопаді 1973 р., а другу в листопаді 1974 р.

Ми не вшановуємо мурів будинку але сотні наших членів і молоді, які цілими роками працюють в цьому домі без грошевої нагороди, щоби цей дім втримати і мати його заповненого конкретною працею.

Цьогорічні відзначення були спеціяльно важні для нас, бо це 25–літній ювілей.

Комітет під головуванням голови дому Тараса Подільського, голови ЛУК Петра Дацківа, голови Ліги Українок Канади Наталії Таланчук, педставника від СУМ Соні Іщенко та секретаря ЛУК Григорія Процківа приготовив досить велику і цікаву програму.

Дня 14–го листопада наше членство, молодь СУМ–у, урядові гості і наші приятелі заповнили головну залю, так що всі квитки, а було їх 380, були викуплені два тижні наперед.

В год. 6:30 Т. Подільський відкрив святкування, привітав Владику Лаврентія Гуцуляка, ЧСВВ, Всч. отців, добродійок, представників уряду, представників поодиноких політичних партій, членсто, гостей та молодь.

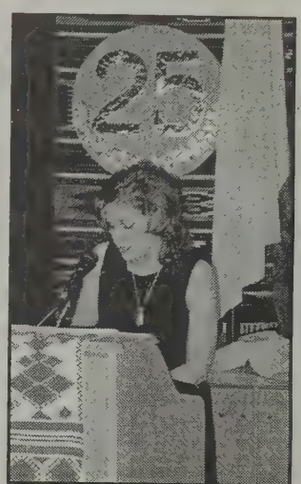
Хор «Верховина» відспівав молитву «Богородице Діво» і три народні пісні, які присутні нагородили довгими оплесками. Отець Протопресвітер Михайло Ковальчик, капелян СУМ–у провів молитву а Владика Лаврентій поблагословив їжу і напитки.

По вечері господар попросив до слова привіту Владику Лаврентія, який зложив нашій громаді признання та побажав успіхів у дальшій праці. Від уряду провінції Альберти зложив привіт посол Євген Звоздецький, від міста Едмонтону алдермен Роз Розенберґ, від ліберальної партії Альберти Бил Боннер, від партії реформ дорадник посла Деборах Ґрей – Джовді Малявка. Всі вони вручили грамоти від своїх установ, які репрезентували. Голова Осередку СУМ Олеся Луців–Андрійович зложила щирий привіт від Едмонтонського Осередку та подарок – образ «Золотий урожай».

З черги молодше юнацтво СУМ виступило з уривком оперети «Пан Коцький».

Василь Багнюк поділився з присутніми своїми спогадами як і чому дійшло до будови Дому Молоді. Він згадав про успіхи і труднощі, які в той час були.

Акту посвячення довершили в листопаді 1974 р. Владика Ніль Саварин і Владика Ефрем Кривий в асисті отців парохів о. Юрія Ковальського, о. Володимира Тарнавського і о. Методія Нички ЧСВВ. Офіційно відкрив ДУМ тодійшній прем'єр Альберти Пітер Логід в товаристві тодішнього міністра культури Горст Шміта та міністра вищої освіти Гоголя. Міську управу репрезентував майор Едмонтону Івор Дент, федеральний уряд посли Лемберт та Євчук. Уряд Альберти з цієї нагоди пожертвував нам на розбудову Дому 70,000 долярів. Ця урочистість дала нашому членству великий підйом та заохоту до праці.



Членкиня Дирекції Дому Молоді Соня Іщенко виступає з доповіддю на тему «Дивлячись в майбутнє».

П. Дацків поділився з присутніми з пророблею працею за останні 25 років. Згадав всіх голів дирекції та що за їх головування було зроблено. Згадав які достойні гості відвідали наш Дім а це: Патріярх Йосиф Сліпий, прем'єр–міністр П'єр Еліот Трудо, голова проводу ОУН Слава Стецько, полк. Василь Кук, летуни з України з епітажу «Мрія» на чолі з ген. Скальком та багато інших гостей з України і діаспори. В домі мають свої приміщення Ліґа Українців Канади, Ліґа Українок Канади, Спілка Української Молоді, Тов. УПА, Братство Дивізійників і Тов. Сеньйорів ім. Марка Боєслава. З дому користують також наші громадські та церковні організації, спортові дружини та інші.

Танцювальний ансамбль «Дунай» виконав дуже гарно танець «Гуцулка», що присутні нагородили довготривалими оплесками.

С. Іщенко, виховниця СУМ, членкиня хору «Верховина», поділилася своїми думками на тему «Дивлячись в майбутнє». Її думки були дуже на часі і треба зазначити, що маючи таку патріотичну і охочу молодь до праці на громадській ниві можемо спокійно дивитися на наше майбутнє.

В минулому ми видавали брошури про наше життя, працю, наші успіхи і недоліки. Такі брошури були видані з нагоди посвячення Дому, 10– і 20–ліття. Цього року було висвітлено відіо яке виготовлено з нагоди 25–ліття де охоплено нашу працю за цілий цей період. Не одному чи одній потекла з очей слеза, коли побачили себе на екрані, де ми ще молоді і бадьорі. І хоча багато з нас вже постарілися, а і багато вже відійшли до свого Творця, то ті, що ще залишилися здорові, вважаємо нашим обов'язком дальше працювати для добра нашої громади і України.

Танцювальний ансамбель «Дунай», в складі коло 30 танцюристів, виконав знаменитий танок «Гопак». Ця мистецька одиниця може виступати перед найвимагливішою публікою, бо своїм виступом вони зачарували присутніх. В їхній запланованій подорожі, разом із хором «Верховина», на 1999 р. до Бразилії бажаємо багато успіхів.

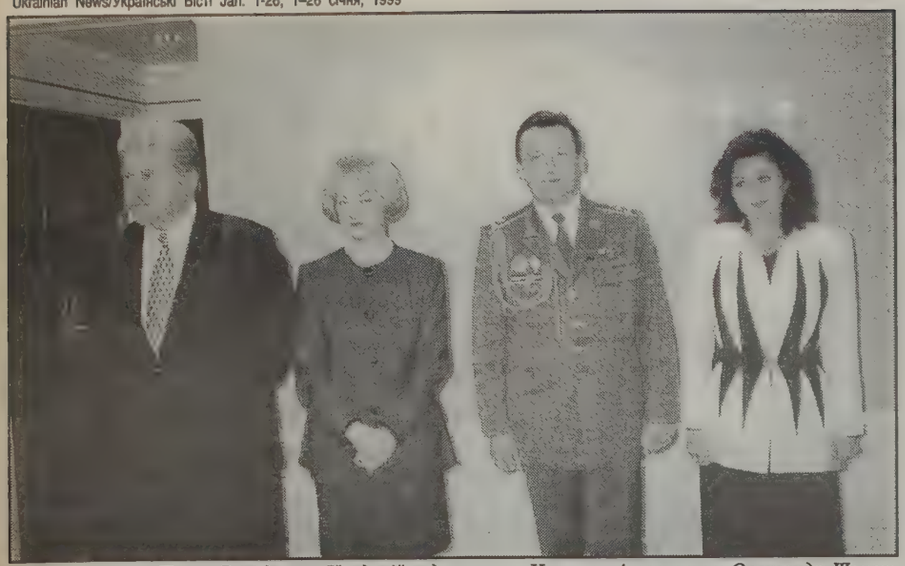
Тут хочу ще подати імена осіб, які очолювали дирекцію Дому Молоді на протязі 25 років нашого існування: інж. Михайло Когут, Іван Доросевич, Петро Бойків, Роман Чучман, Володимир Луців та Тарас Подільський.

Було нам приємно вітати на наших відзначеннях 11 молодих учительок і 11 канадських дівчат, які були тут на стажувні зі Львова. Їх привіз голова Едмонтонського відділу КУК друг Степан Романюк, наш активний член, який ними заопікувався. Вони були на нашій програмі і на окремому для них принятті. Оглянули наш Дім і були дуже захоплені приміщеннями для СУМ–у. З цієї нагоди Дім подарував їм від В. Паїка його книжку «Корінь України» і атляс до цієї книжки, а Дім Молоді брошури з нашого 20–ліття. І хоча книжка і атляс є видані в Україні вони цього не бачили і нічого про ці речі незнали.

На кінець приємно згадати, що в останніх роках в управі Дому є майже половина молодих людей вихованків СУМ–у, одним з них є наш голова дирекції, учитель Тарас Подільський, який вже третій рік очолює Дирекцію.

Маючи таких працьовитих членів в нашій управі дає нам запоруку про світле майбутнє наших організацій. Ми старші передали їм добру фінансову базу і вони вміло її розробляють і доповнюють. Спільними силами і доброю співпрацею віримо, що будемо мати добрі успіхи.

Так нам Боже допоможи.



Зліва на право: Посол Володимир Хандогій з дружиною Наталею і полковник Олександр Шемет з дружиною Вікторією.

Посольство в Оттаві відзначило День Збройних Сил України

Юлія Войчишин

На це свято, що відбулося 7–го грудня, запрошували спільно, новий надзвичайний і повноважний Посол України Володимир Хандогій і виконуючий обов'язки військового атташе полковник Олександр Шемет. Вони ж, разом зі своїми дружинами, вітали гостей при вході.

Достойний амбасадор минулого місяця приїхав до Оттави і шойно 3–го грудня був запрошений Ґенералом Ґубернатором Канади вручити вірчі грамоти. *При тій нагоді* амбасадор виступив з привітальним словом в двох офіційних мовах Канади – англійській і французькій. Він похвалив Канаду за її міжнародню політику та провідницьку ролю в сфері роззброєння та розв'язання гуманітарних питань. Відзначив також дотримування пошанування людських прав і позитивну багатокультурну програму в країні та пограгулював за обрання представника Канади до Ради Безпеки Об'єднаних Націй. Посол наголосив важливість великої української громади в Канаді та висловив бажання про ще тіснішу посилену економічну і культурну співпрацю між Україною й Канадою.

Як подав на другий день *"The Ottawa Citizen"*, Ґенерал–губернатор Р. ЛеБланк також висловився позитивно про українців в Канаді, він сказав:

"Ukrainian-Canadians have made their mark and made us proud. We in Canada know the strength, of the Ukrainian spirit. It has helped to build our own country".

Про свого попередника Достойного Рамона Гнатишина він сказав, що той залишив *"a distinguished example to me and to all Canadians"*.

На відзначенні Дня Збройних Сил України пол. О. Шемет подав мені інформації про історію та діяльність українських військових сил. Він сказав таке: «Сьогодні, 7–го грудня 1998 р. Посольство України в Канаді святкує 7–му річницю Збройних Сил України. Безпосередньо день припадає на 6–го грудня 1991 р., коли був підписаний документ про створення незалежних збройних сил України. За цей короткий, але я б сказав історичний шлях, наші збройні сили пройшли дуже складну дорогу і свідченням того може бути наприклад участь наших миротворців на терені Боснії–Герцеґовіни. 240–ий окремий батальйон до цього і 60–ий окремий спеціяльний батальйон представляли Збройні Сили Уґраїни на терені колишньої Югославії. Зараз один з батальйонів 240–ий продовжує виконувати свої функції та терені колишньої Югославії. Наші військовослужбовці, яких кожний хто був присутній на цьому прийомі, бачили тут серед нас, зараз навчаються в учбових закладах Канади. Хоча їх тут ви бачили тільки п'ятьох, але однак за станом на сьогодні навчається 26 офіцерів Збройних Сил України, які є тут в Канаді. З них 18 офіцерів вивчають французьку і англійську мови, і 8 офіцерів вивчають англійську мову. Але це вже не початок. Ми розпочали дуже активне співробітництво з департаментом Національної оборони Канади – підготовка з мовою, підготовка на командно–штабному рівні. В минулому році один офіцер підполковник Лазаренко закінчив командно–штабний коледж в Торонто. Наступного року, капітан чи майор, прізвище ще невідоме, розпочне навчання в командно–штабному коледжі сухопутних військ в Кінґстоні. Тобто, є дуже багато можливості для співробітництва між Міністерством Оборони України і Департаментом Національної Оборони Канади. В наступному році перший відділ Збройних Сил Канади прийме участь в навчаннях з українсько–польським миротворчим батальйоном».

У відзначенні Дня Збройних Сил України, пол. Шемет поінформував що на прийом з нагоди Дня Збройних Сил України прибули військові атташе Сполучених Штатів, Великої Британії, Німеччини, Франції, Італії, Польщі, Румунії, Чеської Республіки, Греції, Аргентини, Венезуелі, Мексико, тобто майже всі військові атташе, які акредитовані тут в Оттаві безпосередньо.

Департамент Національної Оборони Канади представляв віце–адмірал Арнет, перший заступник начальника оборонного штабу Збройних Сил Канади.

Мені пригадалися резолюції Світового Конґресу Українців, що відбувся 2–6 грудня в Торонті, де сказано:

7–мий Конґрес вітає Президента України Леоніда Кучму, Уряд України, *як також Українські Збройні Сили, які є запорукою незалежності України.*

Приємно чути, як добре поступає вишкіл українських військовиків на зовнішнім відтинку. Вітаємо їх з їхнім днем!

Крім військовиків, було також багато амбасадорів, які вітали нового посла в Оттаві. Присутні були також – Сенатор Рейнал Андрейчук, генерал Ізидор Попович з дружиною Данею, депутат федерального уряду Ластівка, як і президент Конґресу Українців Канади Євген Чолій з Монреалю. Розкішно прибрані і заставлені столи привертали увагу найвибагливіших гостей, та давали нагоду і до дипломатичних і до лише товариських вимін думок.

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Saskatchewan UCC honours nation builders

(UCC-SPC)—The Ukrainian Canadian Congress-Saskatchewan Provincial Council held its fourth annual awards luncheon Nov. 15, at the Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon. An audience of over 225 family, friends and the general public attended to honour the achievements of our province's pioneers, founders and community activists.

UCC-SPC Board Member Yars Lozowchuk acted as Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon. After the meal, the Chair of the UCC-SPC's Recognition Committee, Mary Cherneskey, and committee member Vera Labach read short biographies of each of the 16 recipients and asked them or their family members to come forward to accept the awards from UCC-SPC President Eugene Krenosky.

Dr. Dmytro Cipywnyk, C.M., M.D., D.C.L.

A prominent community leader and medical professional, Dr. Cipywnyk distinguished himself in multicultural, educational and social causes at local, national and international levels. He practiced his professions of psychologist and psychiatrist primarily at the University of Saskatchewan. His outstanding contribution as Saskatchewan medical director in the areas of alcohol and drug abuse led to advisory appointments in Canada and Ukraine. Multiculturally, he served as Canadian Ethnocultural Council President. Ukrainian community leadership positions were with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Ukrainian World Congress (President), Professional and Business Club, Credit Union and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. He was a member of the University Senate and Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. Awards include the Order of Canada, UCC Centennial Medal, Shevchenko Medal and presidential recognition of efforts for Ukraine's independence.

Adeline Elizabeth (Syrnyk) Dudar (1924-)

Adeline Dudar has demonstrated over more than 50 years an unending energy in transmitting knowledge about her culture and religion in an activist role as a teacher, organizer, leader and historian. A professional teacher, she taught Ukrainian language extra-curricularly and parochially. A 20-year congregational lead singer at Saints Peter and Paul Saskatoon liturgical services, she also prepared events singing groups. An executive leader and organizer with the UCWLC and the UCC Women's Committee, she served at all three organizational levels. She has been involved with the origination and eight-year support of a Saskatoon Ukrainian radio program and has recorded historical and organizational events in national and eparchial publications. Her outstanding and committed community service has been recognized with an Honourary UCWLC Life Membership Award.

Stephanie (Chelak) Fielding (1932-)

A professional nurse and dedicated community leader, Stephanie Fielding has devoted herself to the development of community cultural organizations. She has assisted in the development of ethnocultural groups within the Canadian context and has served on the Saskatchewan Multicultural Advisory Council, advising the government on multicultural issues and managing projects and bursary programs. As Council president from 1980-1985, she diverted the organization's focus from one primarily on the folk arts to a multifaceted exploration of broader multicultural issues. As a director of the Canadian Folk Arts Council, she was instrumental in bringing "Focus '84" to Saskatoon on the development of traditional and folk arts across Canada. Actively involved with the transmission of Ukrainian arts and culture, she has initiated formation of a Ukrainian Council and Ukrainian Dance Ensemble for Swift Current.

Ann (Napastuk) Harbuz (1908-1989)

A self-made artist, Ann Harbuz left for posterity an estimated one thousand pieces of artwork produced over a relatively short career span of 22 years from 1967 to 1989. Her primitive paintings in bold colours and multi details portrayed the social history of Ukrainian immigrant life in western Canada, revealing most vividly the particular role of women. The images stored in her photographic memory were resurrected late in her life through a chance encounter with an artist-neighbour at work on his art. Her paintings have been exhibited at the Saskatoon Mendel Art Gallery, in galleries across Canada and are included in the Canadian Museum of Civilization collection in Ottawa. Her work reflects her identity as it was influenced by her surroundings interplaying with her Ukrainian heritage.

Rt. Rev. Mitrat Wolodymyr Iwaszko (1908-1995)

Father Iwaszko was not only a priest, but also a community activist and an inspired organizer and teacher who dedicated his life to the education and personal development particularly of young people. At Sambir, Ukraine, refugee work camps in Germany and his Saskatoon Canadian posting, Father Iwaszko arranged activities for the youth that emphasized sports and outdoor life as a guide for good physical, moral and spiritual development. He was also known to share his meagre financial resources with the needy at his places of service. He was instrumental in organizing the Ukrainian Plast scouting movement in Saskatoon and Canada, organized archival collections, initiated Sunday weekly church bulletins, and published histories of Plast, the Eparchy and various organizations. Beloved by all, he has been recognized in Canada and Ukraine, where there is a memorial to him.

Archpresbyter Rev. Dr. Frank Kernisky (1909-1988)

A devoted priest and visionary activist, Rev. Dr. Kernisky made a significant impact on the development of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada through church construction, parish and church programs, and administrative leadership. He directed the construction of five churches, with four being in Saskatchewan centres. Believing in the value to combining recreation with education for healthy body and soul development, he initiated the construction of Green Grove recreational camp on Wakaw Lake. Two awards recognized his contribution to youth development. His parishes used Sunday Schools for a religious education component. As Consistory Board member and Head, he provided funds and caring support for the various Ukrainian Orthodox church needs such as organizations, educational institutions and newspaper, and including even a family scholarship for Theology graduates.

Professor Watson Kirkconnell (1895-1977)

A man of many roles, Professor Kirkconnell earned a place in the history of Ukrainian Canadians in his capacity as a linguist, historian and author. During a university tenure in Winnipeg, he developed an interest in the languages and literary cultures of the city's ethnocultural population which lead to a commitment to multiculturalism and the publication of an English-language anthology of Ukrainian Canadian writings and translations of Shevchenko's poetry together with Dr. C.H. Andrusyshen. As a First World War Canadian Army Captain, he was stationed at an Ontario internment camp for Ukrainians. Ironically, he would later come to champion causes of this Canadian language group. During his Second World War involvement with the Department of National War Services, he was instrumental in the creation of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee, recording its war effort role in Our Ukrainian Loyalists (1943). The Ukrainian community recognized his contributions with two Shevchenko awards and an honourary doctorate.

Ola (Stratychuk) Kowal (1912-)

When Ola Kowal graduated with a Science degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1931 at the age of 18, she was only their second Ukrainian woman to do so. Her anticipated medical studies were thwarted by the Depression, but subsequent university teacher training prepared her for community service. She taught Ukrainian language and culture, provided the English translation for the UCWLC history, Blessed Endeavour and lectured throughout the province in support of a Ukrainian women's organization under the inspiration of Fathers Stefan Semczuk and John Balla, who encouraged the ladies to assume decision-making community roles. As the first UCWLC president of the Canora branch, Kowal initiated fund-raising and cultural projects that supported and institutions. She has taught art classes in Canadian schools and in Ukraine, to adults, young people and the handicapped. She has held administrative and executive positions in the art community, her church and cultural community and has also rendered public service in the community-at-large. She is currently a member of the national executive of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada and fund-raiser for that organization's Gift of Hope for Ukraine project. She has enriched lives by generously sharing her skills and resources in Canada and Ukraine.

Alexander E. Palenchuk (1910-1993)

When Alexander Palenchuk left Ukraine in 1928, he selected Canada for its potentials for a better life. Settling in Meadow Lake, he opened a shoe and leather repair shop, which attracted a multilingual Western Canadian trade. During a 63-year business and com-

Saskatchewan UCC honours nation builders

munity relationship, Alex demonstrated that effective activism and community cohesion can emanate as well from a conducive workplace as from a meeting hall. At "Alex's" place the local residents could gather to socialize and discuss light and heavy matters. The impact on community activity from this unique gathering place earned recognition for "Alex" in the form of a street in his name, plaques and achievement awards. Proud of his Ukrainian heritage, he supported the building of the Ukrainian National Hall and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, where he held executive positions and served as a cantor.

Michael Stephen Pohorecky (1899-1964)

The challenges of life in Ukraine and Canada impressed upon Michael Pohorecky the full meaning and desirability of freedom. He early realized the potential for community development in the freedom of expression afforded ethnic groupings in Canada and found Saskatoon's social climate was particularly receptive to original ideas. It was there that he was instrumental in organizing various national Ukrainian organizational bodies, primarily the Ukrainian Canadian Committee (Congress), where he served a long-term presidium tenure, and the Ukrainian National Federation and its youth component. Conscious of the role of the press in freedom of speech, he established the New Pathway newspaper in 1930, serving as its editor to his death in 1964. Through his life's work, Pohorecky inspired pride at being a Canadian of Ukrainian heritage.

Ann (Kostiuk) Romanowich (1903-1998)

Organizer, leader, business woman, volunteer and culture promoter, Ann Romanowich was proud of her Ukrainian heritage and untiringly promoted culture preservation. With her strong leadership and organizational skills, she directed young people to the values inherent in Ukrainian cultural and church traditions, and to the benefits of active participation in educational and cultural events. A founding member of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Prince Albert, participant in the establishment of Green Grove Youth Camp at Wakaw Lake, executive member of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada and loyal supporter of the Ukrainian press, her work was extended to the Red Cross and various hospital and community associations, who recognized her contributions. Her Ukrainian displays at the Prince Albert Exhibition earned Ann an Honourary Association Life Membership.

The Hon. Justice John Sopinka (1933-1997)

A lawyer and Supreme Court Justice, John Sopinka has been described as a man of passion, who acted as a protector of the rights of the individual before the power of the state. The son of a pioneer Saskatchewan family, he never forgot his prairie roots and the roles played by Ukrainian Canadians in the building of Canada. His varied career as a professional football player, noted civil litigator and legal scholar served him and the community well when he represented the UCC before the Deschênes Commission of Inquiry of War Criminals in Canada, acted as lead Counsel of the Ukrainian diaspora community before the International Committee of the Great Famine in Ukraine, visited Ukraine in a group of foreign advisors to the Ukrainian Legal Foundation, and functioned as the "heart" of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Leon Wowk (1914-1995)

Leon Wowk centred his community activism on his Ukrainian culture and religion, performing with a quiet, dignified presence and unbending strength of character. The philosophical directions to his activities focused on the individual as of prime concern for the community, the active organizational involvement of young people and a future unshackled by the past. His meritorious service as Executive Director of the Saskatchewan UCC was recognized with the establishment of a University of Saskatchewan named scholarship. Secretary of the Saskatoon Ukrainian National Organization and supporter of Plast scouting, he was also a 15-year co-producer and translator of Saskatoon's St. Joseph's Ukrainian Nursing Home Newsletter. The Ukrainian representative to the Saskatoon Multicultural Society, he epitomized multiculturalism in his own work and philosophy, believing that being a good Ukrainian made for a good Canadian.

Saskatchewan UCC forms Task Force on D and D

(UCC-SPC)—The Board of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Saskatchewan Provincial Council (UCC-SPC) has authorized the formation of a Saskatchewan Task Force on Denaturalization and Deportation.

This is in response to the Federal Government's ill-conceived plan to deport alleged Second World War criminals without benefit of a fair criminal trial.

The 19th Congress of Ukrainian Canadians held in Winnipeg in October of this year, resolved that due to the persistent, false and defamatory allegations linking the Ukrainian Community in Canada with Nazi war crimes, that the issue of denaturalization and deportation is a priority issue for the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. The Congress instructed the UCC Committee for Justice to organize and coordinate political action throughout Canada via UCC Provincial Councils and branches.

The UCC-SPC Task Force will:

- Coordinate the activities of the Provincial Council and its constituent members on this issue;
- Make representations to the appropriate Government agencies at all levels regarding denaturalization and deportation and
- Act as an informational clearinghouse for the Province's Ukrainian organizations and the entire Ukrainian Canadian community of Saskatchewan.

For more information, contact Ostap Skrypnyk, UCC-SPC at tel. 306-652-5850, fax 306-665-2127 or e-mail ostap.skrypnyk@ucc.sk.ca. The Task Force address is 980-606 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon S7K 3H1.

Newsbriefs

Land reform losing popularity

(Eastern Economist)—The International Finance Corporation's Land privatization and collective farm reorganization project representative said on Dec. 22 that rural worker's attitudes toward land reform in this year compared to 1996 are more pessimistic. In 1996 19 percent of rural workers said that land reforms were not necessary, in 1998 this had grown to 23 percent, and the amount of workers who favored collective farms increased from 48 percent to 52 percent, whilst those in favor of private ownership has decreased.

Kuchma cancels fines

(RFE/RL)—President Leonid Kuchma has signed a decree canceling fines on companies that pay all their 1998 taxes by February 1999, the Ukrainian News agency reported on Dec. 22. Kuchma's decision is seen as a measure to improve poor tax collection. The nationwide tax debt skyrocketed from 2.3 billion hryvni in January (C$1.7 billion at the then exchange rate) to 10.2 billion hryvni (C$4.6 billion) as of Dec. 1.

British Intelligence saves art

(Eastern Economist)—Two pictures valued at more than Hr 5 million which had been stolen from the Poltava Museum of Art were found and returned by the British Intelligence Service Dec. 17.

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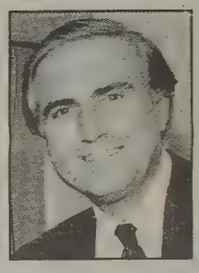

Святкові привітання
від Прем'єра Саскачевану

Я хочу сердечно всіх привітати у цей радісний час від імені Уряду Саскачевану.

На Різдво ми завжди дякуємо за свободу, що маємо, за люблячі сім'ї та чудові громади, де живуть дбайливі, турботливі люди, багаті на новаторські ідеї. В Саскачевані ми збираємося разом – молоді та старі – як одна сім'я і як друзі для того, щоб долати висоти та відкривати нові можливості, для того, щоб досягати взаєморозуміння та нового бачення, щоб підтримувати одни одного та вести за собою. Я вдячний за те, що живу у провінції, де процвітають кооперативні засади та інноваційні ідеї, де минуле є таким ж важливим, як і майбутнє, та де день сьогоднішній наповнений благословінням та перспективами.

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We at Ukrainian News would like to take this opportunity to thank the many businesses and people who have supported us in so many ways throughout the 1998 year. To our readers, donors, advertisers and contributing writers our sincere thank you. May you all have a very Merry Christmas and be blessed with health and prosperity in the New Year.

CHRIST IS BORN!
Editor and Staff of Ukrainian News

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EU to assist Zakarpattia

Kuchma signs decree designating economic zone

(Eastern Economist)—The European Union is to donate humanitarian aid to flood victims in Ukraine's Zakarpattia Oblast worth ECU 850,000.

European Commission representatives in Ukraine told Interfax Ukraine that the aid is to be distributed via four non-government organizations who will participate in the aid program over the next 2-3 months.

The floods occurred on Nov. 4-5, but thousands of homes and buildings will have to be rebuilt.

The government has also put in place a scheme whereby the National Bank of Ukraine will offer interest-free loans for those people who need to rebuild their houses.

Meanwhile, President Leonid Kuchma signed a decree Dec. 16 creating a new special economical zone "Zakarpattia" in Zakarpattia Oblast for a 30-year term.

According to the decree registered enterprises will pay 20 percent revenue tax.

The region will be exempt from contributions to the State Innovations Fund and forced sale of foreign currency income, and import restrictions will be relaxed.

When shipping finished products from the zone into Ukraine VAT and excise will be paid as elsewhere. VAT and excise will not be paid when shipping abroad.

Alberta Flood relief donation presented

Bill Diachuk (L), President, Ukrainian Social Services, presents Gary Redmond, Canadian Red Cross Regional Director, Central and Northern Alberta, with a donation of $1,000 earmarked for Ukraine flood victims. If you are interested in joining the relief effort, drop donations off at any branch of The Alberta Treasury Branch or The Canadian Western Bank. Make donations payable to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Ukraine Flood Relief.

Tarasiuk outlines foreign policy plans

(Eastern Economist)—Foreign Minister Borys Tarasiuk said Dec. 29 that the worldwide financial and economic crisis will significantly cut trade turnover between Ukraine and other countries. He called the world financial crisis the "1998 event with the most impact on Ukraine."

He noted that Ukraine was unable to resolve the issue of associate membership in the EU in 1998. He also spoke on a lack of attention to developing relations with African, Asian, and Latin American countries.

Regarding Ukraine's role in the CIS, Tarasiuk said the organization is now in a state of crisis, and this should be taken into account when a decision is made on joining the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

Tarasiuk pointed to two important events in 1999 pertaining to Ukraine's position in the Central-East European region: the summit of Central European governments in Lviv in May, and the meeting of presidents of Black Sea Economic Council in Crimea.

Tarasiuk said he plans to make visits to Argentina, Brazil and Chile in 1999. President Leonid Kuchma's first official visit to Sweden in also scheduled for next year.

The presidents of Mexico, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chhrétien will visit Ukraine in 1999.

Newsbriefs

Rada grants tax breaks for reactors

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine's legislature on Dec. 16 approved three-year profit tax breaks for companies financing the completion of two nuclear reactors at the Rivne and Khmelnytskyy nuclear power plants. A legislator from the parliamentary Nuclear Safety Committee told AP that the reactors are 80 percent finished and the bill on tax breaks will allow construction to be completed within two years. Ukraine wants those reactors to compensate for the loss of electricity after the planned closure of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant in 2000.

Protocol signed with Czechs

(Eastern Economist)—Czech Foreign Minister Jan Kavan and Ukraine's ambassador to the Czech Republic Andriy Ozadovsky signed a protocol Dec. 23 on bilateral inter state relations between the Ukrainian and Czech governments. The protocol listed reports and agreements made by the former Soviet Ukraine and Soviet Czech Republic which correspond to contemporary universally recognized principles and norms of international rights.

Deals signed with Macedonia

(Eastern Economist)—President Leonid Kuchma and Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov signed a friendship and cooperation agreement and five inter-governmental agreements including documents on education, culture, and air transportation, Dec. 16. Speaking in Skopje, the Macedonian capital, Kuchma noted the high level of trust in negotiations between the two sides.

US, Ukraine to continue space program

(Eastern Economist)—Ukraine and the United States plan to continue cooperation in space research, National Space Agency Deputy General Director Valeriy Komarov said Dec. 18. The two space agencies plan to sign a five-year cooperation program early in 1999, which would center on joint participation in a project for an international space station.

Zenit decision soon

(Eastern Economist)—A decision on the readiness of the Zenit-3SL rockets and Sea Launch complex will be made soon. State Construction Bureau Pivdenne said Dec. 22 that at present Ukrainian, Russian, US, and Norwegian representatives are running tests at Long Beach, US. The investigation into the Zenit-2 accident of September is also nearing completion by the combined Ukrainian-Russian commission.

Teachers strike for wages

(Eastern Economist)—Teachers in Kalush, Ivano-Frankiovsk Oblast went on strike Dec. 21, educational trade union representatives announced. Teachers from 10 regional schools are participating in the strike. Their main demand is the September- October 1998 salary debt payment, a total debt of Hr 3 million (C$1.2 million). The oblast administration have so far paid only Hr 0.2 million.

Parliament to keep Christmas lights on until January 7

(UCCLA)—The Ukrainian Canadian community has welcomed an announcement by the National Capital Commission to the effect that the Christmas lights on Parliament Hill will be kept on this year until Jan. 7, to help celebrate the fact that millions of Canadians of Orthodox, Armenian, Ukrainian Catholic and other Eastern Christian heritage faiths mark that day as Christmas Day.

Acting on the initiative of MP Sarkis Assadourian, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, and other individuals in the community wrote to the NCC to recommend that the Christmas Lights on the Hill remain lit until at least Jan. 8. Support for this initiative also came from friends of the community, like Kingston and the Islands MP Peter Milliken, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons.

On 10 Dec. 10, Jaap Schouten, Vice-President of the NCC's National Programming and Marketing Branch, let Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk know that this year the Parliament Hill display will be the last site to have its lights dismantled, meaning that they will remain in place on Jan. 7.

In coming years, the NCC will "take good note" of the suggestion of extending the illumination dates of the program, which "many people have requested."

Dr Luciuk commented: "We are delighted at this recognition of the multicultural and Christian heritage of so many millions of Canadians and trust that, henceforth, Parliament Hill will be lit from the first Thursday in December to January 8th of the following year, acknowledging this very Canadian reality."

Others wishing to write to the National Capital Commission, to add your voices to our community's requests that the Christmas Lights program on Parliament Hill be permanently extended to keep the Christmas Lights lit until Jan. 8 each year are invited to send their letters to the National Capital Commission at 202-40 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 1C7.

Helping hand reaches out to orphans in Ukraine

Jim Davies
Edmonton Journal Staff Writer

Peter Grabowski isn't your average tow-truck driver.

While most tow-truck drivers help motorists with immobilized vehicles, Grabowski is aiming to help needy orphans on the other side of the world.

The owner of Allstar Towing in Edmonton, Grabowski has spent the past year organizing the "Kids Helping Kids" Charity Benefit concert in support of Ukrainian orphanages and feeding the hungry in Ukraine.

The concert, set for Saturday, Feb. 6, at the Jubilee Auditorium, will feature Luba Goy of the Royal Canadian Air Farce and a wide array of Ukrainian-Canadian entertainers.

"Just because you drive a tow truck doesn't mean you can't put on a show," grins Grabowski.

After all, he says:"Truck drivers have big hearts.

The friendly tow-truck driver, who's also a stagehand at many concerts in the city, says it was about a year ago that he first got the idea to put on a fund-raising concert for orphans in Ukraine.

"I decided to do this because our parish — Holy Corss Ukrainian Catholic Parish — was involved with sending Christmas gifts to children at one orphanage in Lviv, Ukraine.

"I thought it would be a nice idea to expand our aid to other Ukrainian orphanages and to helping feed the hungry in Ukraine."

His idea was to stage a benefit concert for the cause. As his idea was taking shape, his parish priest, Rev. Don Bodnar, said the concert should have a headliner and suggested Luba Goy of the Royal Canadian Air Farce.

"I phoned Luba and told her about our project," says Grabowski.

"She had spent time in an orphanage herself. And when it comes to homeless kids, she's got a soft spot in her heart."

In addition to lining up the show's headliner, Grabowski also signed up numerous other performers for the concert, including the Cheremosh Ukrainian Dancers, Dansation, Heruvymy, Luba Bilash, Migrena, Ron Boychuk, Roman Miroutenko, Ukrainian Shumka Dancers and Vohon Ukrainian Dance Ensemble.

"This is our first time with a project this size," says Grabowski, who has set up a non-profit society — Canadian Ukrainian Showcase Society — as the official organizing group for charity fund-raisers.

"It's probably just a drop in the bucket, but maybe our idea here in Edmonton will catch on across the country.

"They are really desperate in Ukraine," he says."The children are hungry. Things we take for granted here, they simply don't have. They're living by their wits on a day-to-day basis, just to get by."

Church Studies Papers

A New Series from the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies

(CIUS)—With the publication of *Between Kyiv and Constantinople* by the Rev. Andre Partykevich, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta has inaugurated a new series entitled Church Studies Papers. The series is published by the Church Studies Program at CIUS under the auspices of an editorial board that includes program director and series editor-in-chief Dr. Serhii Plokhy, series managing editor Myroslav Yurkevich, CIUS director Dr. Zenon E. Kohut, and Jacyk Centre director Dr. Frank E. Sysyn.

Dr. Partykevich's book, whose full title is *Between Kyiv and Constantinople: Oleksander Lototsky and the Quest for Ukrainian Autocephaly,* examines a subject of particular importance for contemporary Ukrainian Orthodoxy — the autocephalous status of the church and relations with the Patriarchate of Constantinople Central to this theme is the life and activity of Oleksander Lototsky (1870-1939), an eminent civic and ecclesiastical figure in Ukraine and in the emigration in Poland.

Oleksander Lototsky was an active participant in the Ukrainian movement in the Russian Empire and instrumental in helping to lift the ban on the Ukrainian language in 1905. In 1917, under the influence of patriotic Ukrainian circles, he was appointed commissar of the Provisional Government for Bukovyna and Pokuttia. Lototsky became minister of religious affairs in the government of Hetman Pavlo Skoropadsky (1918) and was involved in the Directory's proclamation of Ukrainian Orthodox autocephaly in January 1919.

The publication of Dr. Partykevich's book has been made possible by a generous donation from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. The book itself is dedicated to the memory of Patriarch Mstyslav (Skrypnyk) on the hundredth anniversary of his birth. As indicated in the acknowledgments to the volume, the suggestion of a work on Lototsky was made to the author by the late Professor Bohdan Bociurkiw.

The Rev. Dr. Andre Partykevich's study, *Between Kyiv and Constantinople,* may be ordered from the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 352 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E8. The price of the paperback volume is $14.95. Please add $3.00 for postage and handling, or 10% of the total for orders over $30.00. In Canada, please add 7% GST. Prices for customers outside Canada are in American dollars.

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Rada to stop energy privatization

Also rejects privatization of Ukrtelekom

Business

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine's Supreme Council on Dec. 16 gave preliminary approval to a resolution imposing a moratorium on the privatization of the energy sector, AP reported.

The resolution orders the State Property Fund to stop selling energy companies until the parliament approves an appropriate law.

Deputies argue that many government officials make illegal profits from energy privatization by selling stakes to companies linked to them. The parliament will take a final decision on the moratorium soon.

The previous day, the parliament rejected a government bill providing for the privatization of Ukrtelekom, Ukraine's telecommunications monopoly.

Deputies argued that the bill violates the constitution and agreed to debate an alternative bill next week. Ukrtelekom and Ukraine's oil and gas pipeline network are widely believed to be the only state assets that could attract large-scale foreign investments into the country.

According to Ukrtelekom officials, Ukraine could raise some US$2.4 billion by selling a 25 percent stake in the company.

Volvo looks at Ukraine possibilities

(Eastern Economist)—Volvo representatives visited Zhytomyr region by invitation of Zhytomyr Oblast state administration head Volodymyr Lushkin Dec. 15-17.

The aim of the visit was to study the situation for the possible creation of a joint venture assembling Volvo buses at Zhytomyr repair plant.

During meetings with local businessmen, Volvo manager Johann Nilsson confirmed that in spite of the recent crisis, Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States remained a zone of special interest for Volvo.

In particular, he mentioned, in 1997 Volvo set up an assembly plant for buses in Omsk, Siberia.

Nilson scheduled the next visit to the region for the beginning of 1999, but stressed that any decision hinged on detailed research of the Ukrainian market.

STCU announces new Ukraine projects

(Eastern Economist)—The Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine has approved US$3.6 million in funding for 31 new scientific research projects in a range of fields including nuclear non-proliferation, energy, telecommunications, medicine and biology.

The decision was approved by the Governing Board of the STCU at its seventh meeting on Dec. 10 in Kyiv.

The STCU, in operation since 1995, was established by the United States, Canada, Sweden and Ukraine, to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction by providing scientists and engineers from the former Soviet Union opportunities for employment on peaceful scientific projects.

The projects will be carried out in a number of regions including Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Zhovti Vody, Zaporizhia, Lviv, and Sevastopol.

Daewoo problems set for discussion

(Eastern Economist)—Unofficial sources at the Ukrainian Cabinet have told Unian that the problems of the AvtoZaz-Daewoo joint venture are planned to be discussed at a special Cabinet meting in January.

This is conditioned by non-compliance by the Korean firm of certain investment obligations, in particular, non-allocation of credit funds with which the JV is to pay Ukrainian component suppliers and for the creation of a sole distribution network for the sale of certain models made by the JV.

This was a condition of the JV's creation. Instead, the "Daewoo-Motors Ukraine" operates in Ukraine, which sells Daewoo cars, but is a separate legal entity. The main production line in Zaporizhia halted production this month.

Business Briefs

Privatization below target

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine raised less than 50 percent of its planned privatization revenues in 1998, AP reported on Dec. 29. Vadym Vasylev, head of the State Privatization fund, reported that as of Dec. 29, the state budget received 422 million hryvni (C$190 million) of the 1 billion hryvni projected for the entire year. Vasylev said privatization was hindered by Russia's financial crisis, which he argued scared foreign investors away from Ukraine. The government has set its privatization revenue target for 1999 at 800 million hryvni.

NBU cuts discount rate

(RFE/RL)—*Ukraine's Central Bank has lowered the discount rate* from 82 percent to 60 percent as of Dec. 21 and ordered commercial banks to adjust their interest rates to the new figure, AP reported on Dec. 18. The decision came several day after National Bank Chairman Viktor Yushchenko said Ukraine's currency market has started to show signs of stabilization following the onset of Russia's financial and economic crisis.

Light industry in sharp decline

(Eastern Economist)—Light industry's share of the 1998 GDP will be 1.7 percent, or one-tenth of 1997. In developed countries, light industry is nearly 80 percent of the GDP. Industrial Policies Minister Vasyl Hureyev said the main reason for the decline lay in delays with structural reforms in the economy. According to him, the stake of light industry in western countries averages 80 percent of GDP.

Donetsk made economic zone

(Eastern Economist)—The Verkhovna Rada agreed to President Leonid Kuchma's proposals and approved the law on special economic zones and special investment regimes in the Donetsk Oblast on Dec. 24. However, it failed to approve a draft law on a special economic zone in Zakarpattia Oblast, although this was tempered by approval of the law on a special investment regime for Zakarpattia.

NBU regulates foreign currency loans

(Eastern Economist)—The National Bank of Ukraine on Dec. 18 issued a resolution on the temporary regime for foreign currency loans. Resident commercial banks can grant foreign currency loans to resident exporters of goods and services to provide for this activity. Commercial banks can grant foreign currency to residents to buy critical import goods from the list approved by the government and to buy energy. The resolution came into force Dec. 21

Roaming service activated

(UkrNews)—New Jersey-based Omnipoint Communications on Dec. 23 announced that its Personal Communications Services (PCS) provider activated its first roaming deal in Ukraine with Ukrainian Mobile Communications. Omnipoint has roaming service throughout most of Europe, as well as parts of the Middle East, Africa, South America and the Pacific Rim. Omnipoint uses GSM (Global System for Mobile) communications wireless technology.

Obolon to produce 2000 beer

(Eastern Economist)—Kyiv's Obolon brewery has started producing a new brand of beer called 2000. 2000 beer will come in new taller European standard bottles which have not been used in Ukraine before.

McDonald's opens 2 more in Odesa

(Eastern Economist)—McDonald's Ukraine Ltd. has opened its second and third restaurants in Odesa Dec. 29. The company opened its first restaurant in Odesa on Dobrovolskyi avenue in late October. McDonald's Ukraine Ltd. has opened a total of 19 restaurants in Ukraine.

NHL-ers of Ukrainian origin having a good year

Sports

(Dryconcom)–The 1998-99 version of the National Hockey League is currently completing the first third of its schedule (as of Dec. 21, 1998). Most teams have played between 27 and 32 games, as of this date.

Of the 25 identified players of Ukrainian origin, most are having a good year and an contributing significantly to the success of these teams.

The top three point scorers — Gretzky (35), Khristich (34) and Tkachuk (29) are having very good years and probably will reach the 100 point plateau. Many thought Gretzky's best years ware behind him, and yet he is still in third place in the scoring race of the NHL. Also Khristich and Tkachuk are providing important leadership roles for their respective teams of Boston and Phoenix.

The top good servers at the one third of the season point are Tkachuk (16), Khristich (14), Bundza (12) and Andreychuk (10). All four will be over the 20 good mark by seasons end.

The top playmaker continues to be Gretzky with 29 helpers. He is followed by Khristich (20), Sydor (15) and Tkachuk (13).

Penalty-wise, Berehowsky (74 minutes) is leading the group, followed by Kocur (45), Diduch (40) and Zhitnik (40). There is still one player with no penalty minutes — Nemirovsky of the Florida Panthers.

In the +/- rating, the best players are Tkachuk (+17), Matrichuk (+15), Daneyko (+15) and Werenka (+13). All four are playing with teams over 500. The others and of the scale has Berehowsky (-6), Fedyk (-6), Sydor (-5) and Gretzky (-5).

Altogether, the 25 Ukrainian origin hockey players in the NHL form a most formidable group that world constitute a very good hockey team if taken together.

NHL Players of Ukrainian Origin as of Dec. 22, 1998

Name/Team	G	A\	P	PIM	+/-
Gretzky, NYR	6	29	35	6	-5
Khristich, Bost.	14	20	34	20	5
Tkachuk, Phoenix	16	13	29	37	17
Sydor, Dallas	8	15	23	10	-5
Andreychuk, N.J.	10	7	17	8	-1
Bondra, Wash.	12	3	15	24	0
Werenka, Pitts.	3	9	12	21	13
Hrkac, Dallas	5	6	11	12	5
Zhitnik, Buf.	4	7	11	40	2
Meneluk, Chi.	4	7	11	12	5
Tverdovsky, Phoenix	5	5	10	8	10
Bellows, Wash.	4	5	9	12	-2
Matvichuk, Dallas	2	7	9	18	15
Nicholishin, Wash.	2	6	8	10	3
Kocur, Detroit	2	4	6	45	-1
Leschyshyn, Car.	1	5	6	36	1
Olczyk, Chi.	2	3	5	6	-1
Berchowsky, Nush.	9	5	5	74	-6
Konowalchuk, Wash.	4	0	4	2	2
Daneyko, N.J.	1	3	4	27	15
Diduck, Phoenix	0	2	2	40	7
Nemirovsky, Florida	9	1	1	0	1
Babych, Phil.	0	1	1	16	-2
Fedyk, NYR	0	0	0	10	-6
Belak, Col.	0	0	0	32	-2

Dynamo to face Real Madrid

(Eastern Economist)—Dynamo Kyiv will take on current Champions League Cup holder Real Madrid in the cup's quarterfinals in March, the Union of European Football Associations announced after a draw Dec. 16.

In other quarterfinal matchups, Manchester United (England) will play against Inter Milan (Italy), Juventus (Italy) against Olympiakos Piraeus (Greece), and Bayern Munich (Germany) will play in a derby with Kaiserslautern.

Matches will be played in two legs on March 3 and March 17. Dynamos home game will take place March 17

The same day, Dynamo striker Serhiy Rebrov was named the 1998 Ukrainian Footballer of the Year and Benfica of Portugal announced that it has signed 30-year-old Ukrainian international defender Oleh Luzhny on a three-and-a-half year contract, bought from Dynamo Kyiv.

Honour a wedding present

(Eastern Economist)—Dynamo player Serhiy Rebrov was named the best soccer player in Ukraine for 1998. This occasion was a wedding present for Rebrov, who got married Dec. 30 to a Kyiv Management Academy student. Dynamo players celebrated in Koncha-Zaspa as the wedding party coincided with New Year celebrations.

US edges Ukraine 2-1 in women's soccer

Justi Baumgardt's goal in the 69th minute gave the United States a 2-1 victory over Ukraine in an exhibition women's soccer match Dec. 16, tying its mark for victories in a year at 21, reported the Associated Press.

The victory increased the U.S. winning streak to eight matches, its unbeaten streak to 18 and unbeaten streak in the United States to 43.

Ukrainian forward Natalia Zinchenko opened the scoring on a free kick in the 18th minute. Natalie Neaton tied the score in the 40th minute, heading in a cross from Samantha Bagget.

Baumgardt scored the winner in the second half, taking a pass from Ann Cook and putting a 40-yard shot just under the crossbar.

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Market economics prove uneconomical for hog sellers

By Stefan Korshak

(RFE/RL)—Maksim and Aleksandr, two air-traffic controllers in Kyiv, recently augmented their meagre and intermittent government salaries by selling a pig at one of the city's many farmers' markets. For reasons that will be evident, they declined to give RFE/RL their full names.

The pig-selling process took four grueling days. It wasn't fun. But their experience was instructive of the convoluted, corrupt, and wasteful ways in which the simplest business transactions are conducted in Ukraine these days.

The bustle and crowds in the markets of Kyiv suggest a triumph of market economics. But entrepreneurs like Maksim and Aleksandr find that the markets are hardly free.

They started their venture by driving to a nearby village to buy and slaughter a pig and to bring the pork to market. They timed their arrival at Kureny Market for long before sunrise to assure they could rent a good location.

The law sensibly requires that meat be inspected. And Lyubov Arsienko, chief of the meat inspection laboratory at another market — the Volodmyrsky — said that each pig carcass sold at a Ukrainian farmer's market is inspected individually and thoroughly. That includes document checks and chemical, radiological and microscopic examinations — all for a fee. It can take a half-hour or more.

Knowledgeable traders say an alternative process is available. One described it as follows: "So many pigs come through here, there's no way the inspectors can do 20 individual tests on 100 animals a day. If they know you, they will stamp your papers immediately."

For pork sellers Maxim and Alexander, the process was longer, not shorter. Their inspector wanted samples of the pig's organs, not just the meat for sale. Maxim and Alexander had left the innards in the country. So they borrowed samples from a neighboring seller and bribed the inspector to accept them.

They next hired the market's butcher to carve up the pig, also for a fee. Maksim and Aleksandr spent three days of selling to convert the meat to cash. Meanwhile, they paid parking fees for their car, and refrigerator storage fees for their wares, and daily rental fees for their concrete slab to lay out their pork chops.

Strangely enough, organized crime did not take a bite out of Maxim and Aleksandr's pig, but that was an exception. The market where they sold it, the Kureny, is new, private, and patrolled by armed security teams, whose job includes chasing off possible racketeers. The rules about protection vary from market to market. At the Volodymyrsky — and in most other Kyiv farmer's markets — large men in leather jackets take a ten-dollar daily cut from a pig trader. At the Heroiv Dnipra, market butchers uses axes and knives to act as their own security, one trader said.

Selling pork at the relatively crime-free Kureny market costs about twice as much as at the Volodymyrsky. "The difference in prices is almost exactly the same as paying the mafia," complained a trader.

Maxim and Alexander netted the equivalent of about 30 U.S. dollars each for their four days of frustration and work. They say they've now retired from the pig-selling business.

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